

Europarlament delays Israel pact

STRASBOURG (AP) — The European Parliament on Wednesday postponed ratification of a trade accord with Israel, dealing a severe blow to Israeli exports of cut flowers, fruit and vegetables to Europe. The parliament delayed the vote despite a last-minute appeal by top European Economic Community (EEC) officials that this would hurt Israeli exports. "It would be regrettable ... Israel would suffer," Claude Cheysson, the EEC commissioner for North-South relations, told the parliament before the vote. The decision was made under amendments to the EEC founding Treaty of Rome, which gave the parliament of the 12-nation trade bloc the unprecedented power to ratify foreign treaties. The 518-member EEC legislature delayed ratification of this accord, claiming it was not given enough time to examine the deal. The agreement had already been held up by Britain and Greece which demanded that the Palestinian farmers in the Israeli-occupied territories should be allowed to export their produce directly to Europe.

Jordan Times

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Mahdi arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi arrived here Wednesday evening for an official three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Mr. Mahdi is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein. The Sudanese leader will also hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on bilateral relations and Arab issues. Mr. Rifai and senior officials received Mr. Mahdi upon his arrival here. Mr. Mahdi is accompanied by the Sudanese minister of trade and a high-level delegation.

Cabinet approves appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Wednesday decided to extend the membership of Mr. Zuhair Asfour in the Central Bank of Jordan board of directors for another three years. The Cabinet also approved a technical and economic feasibility study needed for completing the final designs for a road linking Azraq with the Iraqi border. The Cabinet also decided to deputize the deputy director of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, Farouq Ala'eddin, to hold the position of director general of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company. Mr. Ala'eddin will hold this new post for two years.

Husseini concludes Damascus visit

RAMTHA (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Husseini Wednesday concluded a two-day official visit to Syria and returned home. Mr. Husseini held talks with Syrian officials on promoting Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in the field of telecommunications. In a statement upon arrival at this border post Mr. Husseini described his talks with his Syrian counterpart Murad Al Qutaybi as extremely successful. He said the talks covered coordination between the respective corporations in Jordan and Syria in telecommunications and telephone services. The Syrian minister of communications would visit Amman soon for a follow up on the negotiations started in Damascus. During the visit, Mr. Husseini conveyed a verbal message from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Mr. Mahmoud Al Zoubi, the Syrian prime minister.

Egypt reaffirms support for Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Egyptian Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala on Wednesday affirmed his country's support for Kuwait in the face of Iranian threats. Field Marshal Abu Ghazala told a graduation ceremony of conscript cadets that "the security of Kuwait and Egypt is an indivisible part of pan-Arab solidarity." He was the first Egyptian official to visit Kuwait since Kuwait restored ties with Cairo last month after an eight-year hiatus because of Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel. Field Marshal Abu Ghazala, who is commander in chief and also deputy prime minister, held talks with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah.

'Plot to kill Lebanese commander foiled'

BEIRUT (R) — The Beirut daily Al Safir said on Wednesday a plot to assassinate Lebanese army commander General Michel Aoun had been foiled and a number of military and civilian suspects arrested. Quoting reliable security sources, the newspaper said Gen. Aoun's own security officials were interrogating the detainees, who were not identified. The army command refused to comment on the report. Gen. Aoun, a Maronite Christian, is thought to be a candidate in the Lebanese presidential election due next summer.

Israel flexes army muscles but fails to quell Palestinian revolt

Protests continue despite beefed-up occupation forces' presence in Gaza • Israeli soldier stabbed • 43 Arabs reportedly killed in eight days

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP — The Israeli army sent hundreds of troops and armoured vehicles to the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday in a clear show of its muscles but failed to quell the increasing wave of Palestinian protests raging through the occupied territories.

At least six Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers. An Israeli soldier was stabbed and was reported in

serious condition.

In Baghdad, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation said Wednesday that 40 people have been killed in the past eight week days of violence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The spokesman, Bassam Abu Sharif, also said an extra 1,000 Israeli soldiers were refused to the Gaza Strip to "take part in the current massacre carried out against Palestinian people."

Abu Sharif said Palestinians staged demonstrations in the

West Bank cities of Ramallah, Hebron and Nablus. He said Israeli forces imposed a siege on Nablus and cut off phone communications to it.

According to official Israeli reports, Israeli troops have killed at least 13 Palestinians and wounded more than 100 in the occupied territories since protests began on Tuesday last week. Criticism of Israel's handling of the protests has come from its friends as well as its foes (See story below).

(Continued on page 2)

World condemns Israeli actions, stresses need for political solution

Combined agency dispatches

WORLD condemnation grew on Wednesday of Israel's "iron fist" policy against Palestinian protesters in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and many countries underlined the absence of a political solution to the Palestinian problem as the cause for the ongoing violence in the occupied territories.

France expressed concern over the violence and said continuing protests underlined the need for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

An official statement published after a regular meeting between the conservative cabinet of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and Socialist President Francois Mitterrand deplored the loss of life "particularly among the people of the occupied territories and the

refugee camps."

"This situation can only reinforce the government's conviction that dialogue and negotiation are more necessary now than ever," the French statement said.

"This negotiation, as has been stated several times, should take the form of an international conference of all interested parties plus the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council," it added.

The West German government expressed its concern over the violence and called on the Israeli government to remember its "obligations as an occupying power."

A Foreign Ministry statement said West Germany "regrets the loss of life" and called on Israeli-Arab negotiations to resolve the problem.

The Foreign Ministry appealed

to the Israeli government "to be conscious of its obligations... as an occupying power," and reminded Israel that the 12 nation European economic summit has demanded that conditions improve in the occupied territories.

According to the statement, paths to solving problems in the occupied territories will depend on "creating a climate of trust between the parties who are in conflict."

"Measures that worsen the situation do not serve to create such a climate and endangers the prospects of solving the Israeli-Arab conflict through negotiations," the statement said.

Britain said on Wednesday it deplored the violence in the occupied territories and urged Israeli troops to act in a more humane

(Continued on page 5)

Iran and Iraq escalate 'tanker war'

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq on Tuesday stepped up their "tanker war," with Iran hitting its second tanker in two days as Baghdad reported three fresh strikes by Iraqi jets off the Iranian coast.

Shipping sources said an Iranian frigate was causing a traffic jam at the entrance to the waterway by stopping vessels for details of their cargo and destinations.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said Iraqi jets hit one vessel off Iran's northern Gulf coast at midnight Tuesday (2100 GMT) and two on Wednesday.

Gulf shipping sources said the 27,244-tonne Cypriot bulk carrier Mimi M was hit in the midnight strike and there were several injuries among its Indian and Filipino crew.

A fire was extinguished and the ship sailed under its own

power for the Iranian port of Bushire.

Within hours of the attack, Iranian Revolutionary Guards pumped four rocket-propelled grenades into the 29,990-tonne Greek tanker World Produce, setting it afire in the southern Gulf but causing no casualties.

Shipping sources said it took three tugs several hours to put out the flames. They later began towing the ship.

Soviet envoy concedes differences with Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A Soviet envoy conceded Wednesday there were disagreements between Moscow and Baghdad on how to end the Gulf war but said reports of a break in relations are "fabrications."

The envoy, Mikhail Sytenko, told a group of local and foreign reporters that Soviet military aid to Iraq would continue.

He said the two countries disagree on the means of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire in the seven-year war.

Mr. Sytenko said while the Soviet Union supports the resolution, it believes "the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf" and not Iran is the major obstacle to implementation of the resolution.

"The huge number of western warships in the Gulf encourages instability in the area and this presence is in sheer contradiction with the spirit and the letter of the resolution," Mr. Sytenko said in Russian through an interpreter.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz early this month criticised the Soviet Union for reluctance to back a second resolution by the Security Council imposing an arms embargo against Iran for its

rejection of Resolution 598. Iraq and the Soviet Union have had a friendship and cooperation agreement since 1972.

Mr. Sytenko discounted reports that Iraq was considering breaking off the friendship treaty with the Soviet Union. He said "these are fabrications spread by irresponsible Western media."

"We have renewed the treaty (this year) and both countries have the will and determination to continue and even develop friendship and bilateral relations," Mr. Sytenko said.

But he conceded that the two countries disagree on the means of ending the war with Iran.

"We might have some differences, but these are tactical ones and we both agree on the need to end the war," he said.

Mr. Sytenko said the Soviet Union was against an arms embargo resolution "because if taken it will be a mere paper which will not solve the problem."

Shultz: Soviets showing willingness to join embargo

LONDON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Wednesday the Soviets had shown willingness to support a United Nations arms embargo on Iran, but he rejected Moscow's demand that the weapons ban be accompanied by a multinational naval enforcement force.

Mr. Shultz told a news conference: "There has been expressed a readiness" by Soviet officials at the United Nations to support a Security Council resolution punishing Iran for its refusal to accept a ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

For months, the Soviets had called for further mediation efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and as recently as the summit in Washington rejected U.S. calls for the arms embargo resolution.

"Maybe we're beginning to see some progress," Mr. Shultz said. At the same time, he said, "the Soviets have said they want to go forward with a parallel effort, and they seem to have in mind naval enforcement."

Talk of such a U.N.-flagged enforcement force is "extremely premature" because the arms ban is already envisioned in earlier Security Council resolutions, he

said.

"Let's start with the (arms embargo) resolution itself," Mr. Shultz said. "It's mandatory."

Mr. Shultz was commenting on a Washington Post report that the Soviet Union was demanding the United States and other Western governments accept the formation of a U.N.-flagged naval force to back any Security Council arms embargo against Iran.

The Security Council last July passed unanimously a resolution ordering Iran and Iraq to halt immediately the fighting in their seven-year-old war.

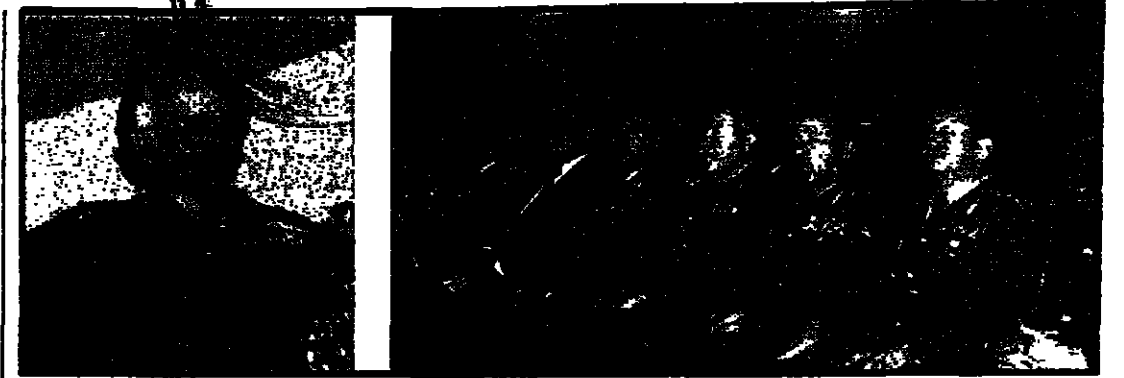
Iraq agreed to comply with the order but Iran has resisted, in spite of intensified diplomatic efforts by Mr. Perez de Cuellar to reach an agreement.

If all the countries vote for a ban on arms to Iran, there will be no need for military enforcement, Mr. Shultz said Wednesday.

"If all countries refuse to sell arms to Iran, it will be effective," he said.

Mr. Shultz made his remarks shortly before leaving London after talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her top aides.

Murphy: Soviets still cool to U.S. overtures, page 2



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday addresses a gathering of senior Armed Forces officials and staff and students of the Royal Staff and Command Academy on the occasion of the graduation of a new batch of officers from the academy (Petra photo)

King: Israel is trying to fight tide of history in occupied lands

His Majesty, in address to graduating officers, hopes spirit of superpower treaty will grow into agreement on regional conflicts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said on Wednesday that Israel was imposing a colonialist rule in the occupied Arab territories and maintaining a policy of repression and tyranny against the Arab people that ran against the tide of history.

Israel can never stem the deep-rooted and growing desire for freedom of Palestinians under occupation by resorting to repres-

sion and arbitrary measure and collective punishments, the King said.

In an address to a graduation ceremony of a new group of army officers from the Royal Command and Staff Academy, the King said Jordan's policy "is based on total commitment to the charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement which rejects subjugation to policies of containment and looks with open minds to resolving regional problems by

peaceful means and in accordance with international law and the U.N. resolutions on these problems."

His Majesty also said Jordan's domestic policy aims at "building up Arab strength — militarily, economically, culturally and socially — so that we can safeguard the defence and the prosperity of the Arab Nation."

Following are major excerpts of the King's address at the ceremony:

(Continued on page 3)

Ramadan reiterates Iraq's rejection of any modification to Resolution 598

Iraq will consider any move to alter provisions and order of U.N. call as a violation of its national rights

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Iraqi official said on Wednesday that Baghdad viewed any attempt to modify the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire plan in the Gulf war as "an encroachment upon Iraq's national interests" and that Iraq was "more prepared than ever" to repel a new Iranian offensive.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan reiterated Iraq's rejection of any change in the "essence or chronological order" of the steps contained in Security Council Resolution 598 which called for an immediate ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

"We believe that Resolution 598 is distinguished, clear and just. It guarantees the rights of the parties involved," he told the

Jordan Times in an interview. "We also believe that the chronological order of the steps contained in the resolution to be coherent and therefore we shall oppose any attempt to modify the resolution or change its essence," he added.

While Iraq seeks the implementation of Resolution 598, Iraq calls for setting up an inquiry to name Iraq as "the aggressor" prior to a ceasefire.

"Iraq has no intentions to accept any change in the essence of the chronology of the resolution and therefore considers any such attempt an encroachment upon Iraq's national rights," Mr. Ramadan said.

Mr. Ramadan's reiteration of Iraq's rejection of any move to modify Resolution 598 comes amid reports that there are moves within the Security Council to

alter some of the provisions of the U.N. document and that these moves did in fact enjoy tacit Soviet support. No details were available on the exact nature of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Ramadan, who was speaking to the Jordan Times prior to his return to Baghdad following a three-day visit to Amman, said his country was not convinced of any argument which called for giving Tehran another chance to make its final position on the resolution.

"We are not convinced with such arguments because any further procrastination will be in favour of Iran," he said. Moscow has so far been reluctant in pushing for a second Security Council resolution that will impose sanctions, including an arms

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli troops clash with Hizbollahis

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops shelled villages in East Lebanon on Wednesday and clashed with Lebanese fighters, killing at least one and wounding two, police said.

The fighting on the edge of the Israeli-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon followed clashes on Tuesday when the Israelis pushed out of the zone on what they said was a search.

Police said Israeli gunners on Wednesday shelled the villages of Maydoun and 'Ain Al Tineh, four kilometres from Syrian positions in the town of Mashghara, 50 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

One civilian was wounded, they said. Exchanges then erupted between fighters near the villages and the Israelis and their Lebanese militia allies, police said.

Israeli tanks fired at the fighters, who responded with mortars, rockets and machineguns. In the Islamic Resistance said one fighter was killed and two wounded.

Saudi leader to visit Iraq, Syria and Egypt

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia will make a new bid this week to heal Syria's rifts with Iraq and Egypt, the Al Siyasseh daily reported Wednesday.

The newspaper, which is usually well informed on Saudi affairs, said Prince Abdullah would fly first to Baghdad Friday and visit Damascus and Cairo later.

It said his initiative seeks to follow up the reconciliation process that gained momentum at last month's Arab summit conference in Amman.

His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Abdullah launched the reconciliation effort to end the deep rift between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad two years ago.

The Amman summit also opened the door for Egypt's rehabilitation in the Arab World after eight years of being ostracised for its 1979 treaty with Israel.

The summit ruled that Arab countries could restore diplomatic relations, severed after the

treaty was signed, if they wished. But Syria blocked efforts to lift the suspension of Egypt's membership to the 22-nation Arab League.

Most Arab countries have restored links with Cairo. But Syria, along with five other Arab states, still refuses to do so.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak said he was ready to go to Syria for talks with President Assad to patch up differences between them, according to an interview published on Wednesday.

Mr. Mubarak also said in the interview with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) television, reported in Cairo's Al Ahram newspaper, that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi wanted to announce a plan for unity with China.

On relations between Egypt and Libya, severed since 1972 over Middle East peace policies, Mr. Mubarak said, "I do not know what Qadhafi really wants. He even wanted to announce unity with China. I was told this by the Chinese officials when I met them."

مكيانته لاصح

Bahrain appeals to Iran to end war with Iraq

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, Wednesday appealed to Iran to end the 7-year-old war with Iraq, saying the international community was determined to halt the conflict.

Sheikh Isa, in an address marking Bahrain's National Day, described the United Nations Security Council's July 20 resolution calling for a cease-fire as the "best basis" for a peaceful solution to the war.

"The international community, which now is cognizant of the dimensions of the conflict, has demonstrated a collective determination to seek an end to this destructive war," the Emir said in a statement broadcast by Bahrain's television and radio networks.

The Security Council's Resolution 598 demanded Iran and Iraq accept an immediate cease-fire, withdraw troops to international

borders and negotiate peace. Iraq has said it will abide by the resolution if Iran does. But Iran had insisted it will only observe a cease-fire if Iraq is first branded the aggressor.

The United States is currently seeking support from other major powers for a second Security Council resolution to impose an arms embargo on Iran for failing to respond to the July 20 cease-fire call.

"We call on Iran to join with Iraq in its acceptance of the option of an honourable just solution which would be in line with Islamic teachings and international norms, along with the interests of both warring parties and the

(Gulf) region," Sheikh Isa said. The war now threatens neutral states in the region, he said.

He stressed that the war has led to "loopholes in the security structure of the region, drawing in foreign powers and precipitating regional tension that necessitated prompt action" to contain the war from spreading.

The Emir was apparently referring to Iranian threats against Kuwait, the Gulf country closest to the warfront, and the presence of U.S. Soviet and European warships to protect ships against Iranian attack.

Bahrain is linked with Kuwait, along with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, in the Gulf Cooperation Council, an economic and defence alliance.

Sheikh Isa noted the "depth of regional security" provided by GCC.

U.N. body urges France to readmit Iranians

GENEVA (R)—The main U.N. refugee agency made an urgent appeal to France on Wednesday to readmit at least three Iranian exiles expelled to Gabon a week ago, saying two were in serious condition from hunger strikes.

"Two of the hunger strikers in Libreville, Gabon, are in very serious condition," the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement.

"The high commissioner is in contact with the highest authorities in the French government and appeals to them to make a humanitarian gesture to readmit at least the three most compelling of these cases as a matter of urgency."

France expelled 17 opponents of Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Dec. 8 saying they were a threat to public order. It sent 15 — 12 Iranians and three Turks — to Gabon.

The UNHCR wants France to readmit an Iranian man and a young Iranian girl, who were refusing to take food and water.

"We have just learned that the two Iranians are in very serious condition. They have been in hospital since late yesterday (Tuesday), but so far refuse any medical care," UNHCR spokesman Roland-Pierre Parinaux told Reuters.

Israel flexes army muscles but fails to quell Palestinian revolt

(Continued from page 1)

On Wednesday the army sent reinforcements into the Gaza Strip, home to 650,000 Palestinians.

Squads of soldiers from infantry and paratroop units patrolled the streets of Rafah and Khan Yunis, scene of some of the week's most serious protests, as barricades of burning tyres and rotting garbage smouldered.

Israeli forces used water cannon for the first time in the current unrest, apparently in response to international criticism of the use of live ammunition against teenagers armed mostly with stones.

Wednesday's heightened presence of Israeli troops and a restrained use of gunfire appeared to be a policy decision aimed at quelling the protests and appeasing the United States, which has denounced Israeli methods of controlling the protesters.

Armoured soldiers carrying assault rifles and grenade launchers were seen patrolling in pairs on most major street corners in Gaza City and in Khan Yunis to the south.

Using crow bars and chains attached to the back of jeeps, they broke open stores of shopkeepers trying to hold a protest strike.

Despite the heavy army presence, Arabs darting in and out of alleys set fire to hundreds of tyres, and a black haze hung over Gaza City.

The columns of black smoke usually drawn dozens of protesters from nearby neighbourhoods. But a knot of protesters hurling glass bottles outside Shifa Hospital, where soldiers killed two Arabs in Tuesday's clash, never got larger than 50.

About 25 soldiers who blocked off streets leading to the hospital carefully kept their distance, watching through binoculars.

Except for at Shifa, troops were generally quick to respond when they spotted the smoke of burning tyres. Soldiers were seen stopping Arab motorists and confiscating their identity cards until the drivers doused the fires and pulled the blackened tyre shells from the roads.

In one case, protesters trying to outsmart the army dragged a tyre into a cemetery and set it alight between ivory tombstones.

In Jabalya refugee camp just north of Gaza City, an angry group of about 50 Palestinian men sat cross-legged and barefoot on mats on the ground in front of the home of 22-year-old Khalid Abu Takiya, who was killed Tuesday by Israeli gunfire.

"The army is shooting directly at people and without any warning," Amar Khamis Abu Takiya, the father, said. "Only God knows what will happen next." Abu Takiya said, adding that Khalid was the third son he had lost to clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Israeli army commanders met again Wednesday with key Gaza leaders and appealed to them to help restore calm, said Issam Al Shawwa, a prominent Gazan.

"They threatened us. They warned us they have the authority to use even more force," Mr. Shawwa told AP. "But they are talking to the wrong people. Most of the protesters are teenagers and I can't even stop my own 14-year-old son from demonstrating."

Mr. Shawwa said the recent days of clashes were the worst he had seen since then-defence minister Ariel Sharon sent troops in to clear the Gaza Strip of

Palestinian commandos in 1972. "The difference is, this time it is the kids they are mishandling and manhandling," Mr. Shawwa said. "It will scar them for life. So the cycle of violence continues."

Israeli officers repeatedly tried to stop journalists seeing incidents of stone-throwing and isolated beatings of Palestinians by soldiers.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman has given assurances that there is no plan to bar reporters from the occupied territories.

Relief workers in the teeming strip reported that soldiers were beating large numbers of Palestinians and a U.N. source said some were in serious condition.

"I saw one critically ill youngster who had been beaten across the stomach with steel rods and was suffering a ruptured spleen and internal bleeding," he said.

The United Nations, Britain, China, France, East and West Germany, the Soviet Union, Turkey, most Arab States and the United States have criticised Israel's handling of the protest and deplored the loss of life.

But the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who is visiting the United States, said in an interview on Israel Radio that the criticism from the United States,

Israel's closest ally, was nothing new.

Israeli newspaper correspondents in Washington reported that Rabin told them at a special briefing that he expected protests to continue at least until Jan. 1, when the mainstream Fatah group of the PLO marks the 23rd anniversary of its founding.

Arab leaders criticised the Israeli army's tough measures, especially the shooting of demonstrators.

"Some outside force is needed, a force to protect the civilians, a multinational force," said Jonathan Kuttab, a lawyer and cofounder of Law in the Service of Man, an Arab human rights group based in Ramallah. Mr. Kuttab said the Arabs had an "absolute lack of confidence" that controls were being exercised on the army's use of force or that shooting incidents were impartially investigated.

Israeli President Chaim Herzog, speaking in an interview with British Television, justified the actions of Israeli forces in the occupied territories.

"We've obviously decided to take off the gloves in dealing with these very, very extreme elements," Herzog said.

U.N. agencies appeal for funds for Lebanon

GENEVA (R)—Two United Nations agencies appealed on Wednesday for \$85 million to help feed, house and provide medical care next year for about 250,000 destitute families in Lebanon.

Hans Einhaus, a deputy director of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UN-DRO), told a news briefing: "We have received about \$10 million so far. But many countries have yet to respond."

UN-DRO and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund

(UNICEF) first launched the joint appeal for cash and food aid worth \$85 million earlier this month in New York.

Lebanon will lack some 100,000 tonnes of grains and cereals in 1988, Mr. Einhaus said. Local production combined with government stocks will total between 100,000 and 120,000 tonnes — far short of the 260,000 tonnes needed annually.

Mr. Einhaus said the United States Agency for International Development, the European

Community and the World Food Programme had contributed a total of 60,000 tonnes, but more aid was needed.

"Perhaps the only positive result of the complete deterioration of the economic situation is that the militias also have problems with their financial resources. Security has slightly improved recently. There is exhaustion," Mr. Einhaus said.

There are fewer than 500 beds in public hospitals across Lebanon, he said.

Iran will never accept U.S. presence — Rafsanjani

NICOSIA (R)—Iran stands "forever" opposed to the U.S. military presence in the Gulf but will not provoke any fire-fight with American naval forces there, a key Iranian leader declared.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also told the top-selling Tehran daily Kayhan: "We will in no way bear to see the U.S. establish a military base (in the region)."

In a wide-ranging interview, he

also explained Iran's opposition to U.N. Gulf war ceasefire efforts and said relations with France could improve under Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

And he described as "propaganda" Western press reports that Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is ill.

Excerpts from the interview were issued overnight by the Iranian News Agency IRNA, re-

ceived in Cyprus. Mr. Rafsanjani, one of the most influential members of Tehran's clerical leadership, told the daily that Iran "will not leave alone those who invited the U.S. to the region."

U.S. warships escort reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Gulf and the Kuwaiti government says Iran has been behind several missile attacks on its territory. Representing Khomeini on the

Supreme Defence Council, Mr. Rafsanjani often visits the war-torn area — the only Iranian leader to do so. He recently toured bases in the southern Gulf where Iranian speedboats and warships attack ships serving allies of its Gulf war foe Iraq.

Asked about the U.S. naval force he said: "America's presence here is like a flame near a powder-keg. A single spark can ignite anything, any moment."

OBITUARY

With deep sorrow and distress, the Glukmann and Qarabashi families and their relatives announce the passing away of

Jean Claude Glukmann

on Tuesday evening Dec. 15, 1987 at the age of 43. The funeral will follow a requiem at the Latin Church in Sweiffish at 3 p.m. today.

Condolences can be conveyed to the bereaved family at Shmeisani Al Gharbi south of the Middle East Hotel - Sameh Al Khalidi Street, near Wadi Neel market establishment.

A REQUIEM

Will be held at 12 noon Friday for the late

Jean Claude Glukmann

The Jordanian businessman and chairman of the French companies consortium in Jordan. Mrs. Rose Qarabashi-Glukmann and her two sons Fadi and Shadi and her daughter Zein and the Glukmann and Qarabashi families invite all relatives and friends to attend the requiem mass.

For cables: "Glukmann" - Qarabashi - Amman

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19	19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary 21:05 Evening Show Contd. 21:10 News Summary 22:00 Evening Show Contd. 22:00 News Summary 23:05 Evening Show Headlines 23:45 News Down
PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:50 Programme Review 16:00 Children's programmes 16:10 Children's Scientific Programme 16:20 Invisibile Man 16:30 Health and Life (Local) 16:40 Arabic Series 16:50 World News Reports 17:00 Programme review 17:10 News in Arabic 17:20 Arabic series 17:30 Local varieties programme 17:40 Arabic film 17:50 News summary in Arabic 18:00 Arabic film contd.	
PROGRAMME TWO 17:40 Les Reves de Jeannot (Cartoon) 18:00 Ruc Carnot 18:10 L'aventure des plantes (documentary) 18:20 News in French 18:30 Varieties 18:40 News in Hebrew 18:50 Varieties 19:00 News in Arabic 19:10 TV Censored Bloopers 19:20 Alfred Hitchcock 19:30 News in English 19:40 Feature film: "Voyage to the Bottom of Earth"	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 85.4 KHz. SW Tel: 73111-19	07:00 Light Music 07:30 Morning Show 08:00 News Summary 08:30 Morning Show Contd. 09:00 News Summary 09:30 News Summary 10:00 News Summary 10:30 News Summary 11:00 News Summary 11:30 News Summary 12:00 News Summary 12:30 News Summary 13:00 News Summary 13:30 News Summary 14:00 News Summary 14:30 News Summary 15:00 News Summary 15:30 News Summary 16:00 News Summary 16:30 News Summary 17:00 News Summary 17:30 News Summary 18:00 News Summary 18:30 News Summary 19:00 News Summary

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19	22:00 Jerash Festival K7 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Jerash Festival contd.
PROGRAMME TWO 17:35 L'addition (French film) 19:00 News in French 19:15 "Le Monde Selon Georges" 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:40 News in Arabic 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Late Throth 21:10 Against the Wind 22:20 News in English 22:30 Basketball	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 85.4 KHz. SW Tel: 73111-19	07:00 Light Music 07:30 News Summary 08:00 News Summary 08:30 Morning Show 09:00 News Summary 09:30 News Summary 10:00 News Summary 10:30 News Summary 11:00 News Summary 11:30 News Summary 12:00 News Summary 12:30 News Summary 13:00 News Summary 13:30 News Summary 14:00 News Summary 14:30 News Summary 15:00 News Summary 15:30 News Summary 16:00 News Summary 16:30 News Summary 17:00 News Summary 17:30 News Summary 18:00 News Summary 18:30 News Summary 19:00 News Summary 19:30 News Summary 20:00 News Summary 20:30 News Summary 21:00 News Summary 21:30 News Summary 22:00 News Summary 22:30 News Summary 23:00 News Summary 23:30 News Summary 24:00 News Summary

TODAY'S EVENTS	Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Amman, Jordan. Opening hours 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
EXHIBITIONS	* "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23) * An exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at the Alia Art Gallery - Jabal Amman (until Dec. 20). * "Sun" painting by Hans Saudi at 4:00 p.m. at Alia Art Gallery Shoman Foundation (until Dec. 25)
CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel. 6610267 American Centre Library ... 64371 British Council ... 6361478 French Cultural Centre ... 63709 Goethe Institute ... 64193 Soviet Cultural Centre ... 64303 Spanish Cultural Centre ... 62649 Turkish Cultural Centre ... 63777 Hava Arts Centre ... 66395 Hussein Youth City ... 6671816 Y.W.C.A. ... 64193 Y.W.M.C.A. ... 64193 Amman Municipal Library ... 63611 Univ. of Jordan Library ... 84355
MUSEUMS	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum". Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also museum from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651740. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) (10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Minataz, Jabal Luweibeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 840128.
SERVICE CLUBS	The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel. 7.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534. 817534.
CHURCHES	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibeh. Tel. 627480. St. Sallie Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussien. Tel. 661757. Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibeh. Mass in Italian language, every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 627366. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdali. Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 717131. Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh. Tel. 717151. Armenian Apostolic Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd): Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811255. Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church): Inter-denominational-ecumenical. English Service: Saturday 8.30 p.m. Tel. 822655. Rev. Veli. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon): Tel. 818817, 812841.

10:00 News Summary 10:05 Morning Show Contd. 11:00 News Summary 11:05 Listeners' Choice 11:10 News Summary 11:15 Listeners' Choice 11:20 Country Music 11:30 News Summary 11:35 Country Music 11:40 News Bulletin 11:45 Jordan Weekly 11:50 In Concert 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Old Favourites 12:10 In Concert 12:15 News Summary 12:20 Top Twenty 12:25 Music 12:30 Discovering Music 12:35 Pop Talk 12:40 Young Sound 12:45 Yes Minister 12:50 Jazz Hour	10:00 News Summary 10:05 Morning Show Contd. 11:00 News Summary 11:05 Listeners' Choice 11:10 News Summary 11:15 Listeners' Choice 11:20 Country Music 11:30 News Summary 11:35 Country Music 11:40 News Bulletin 11:45 Jordan Weekly 11:50 In Concert 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Old Favourites 12:10 In Concert 12:15 News Summary 12:20 Top Twenty 12:25 Music 12:30 Discovering Music 12:35 Pop Talk 12:40 Young Sound 12:45 Yes Minister 12:50 Jazz Hour
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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 52300-5, where it should always be verified.	09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 13:00 Baghdad (IA) 13:45 Bahrain, Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF) 15:00 Kuwait (KU) 15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) 16:40 Riyadh (SV) 19:20 Cairo (MS) 20:00 Sana'a (LH) 22:05 Baghdad (AF)
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 09:15 Agaba (RJ) 09:30 Cairo (RJ) 09:40 Kuwait (RJ) 09:50 Jeddah (RJ) 09:55 Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:05 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:15 New York, Vienna (RJ) 10:20 Athens (RJ) 10:25 London, Geneva (RJ) 10:30 Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ) 10:35 Rome (RJ) 10:40 Baghdad (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 12:00 Baghdad (IA) 12:10 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 12:15 Kuwait (RJ) 12:20 Istanbul, Ankara (TK) 12:30 Riyadh (SV) 12:35 Amsterdam (KLM) 12:40 Frankfurt (LH) 12:45 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 12:50 Paris (AF) 12:55 Baghdad (BA)	
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:00 Agaba (RJ) 07:10 Bucharest (RJ) 07:15 Rome (RJ) 07:20 Athens (RJ) 07:25 Frankfurt, London (RJ) 07:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ) 07:35 Kuwait (RJ) 07:40 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 07:45 Bahrain (RJ) 07:50 Dhahran (RJ) 07:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 08:00 Cairo (RJ) 08:05 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 08:10 Bangkok (RJ)	
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:20 Frankfurt (LH)	

Programme 12:30 Jazz for the Asking 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Newsweek 14:15 Jazz for the Asking 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours 15:30 John Peel 16:00 Newslook 16:30 News Summary 16:45 Nature Notebook 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15	In the Psychiatrist's Chair 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Science in Action 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 A Letter from Northern Ireland 19:15 Music 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Multitask 21:00 News Summary 21:30 24 Hours Stock Market Report 21:45 Personal View 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours News Summary 22:30 Science in Action 23:00 News Summary: Network UK 23:15 Music Now 23:45 The Battle of Pollock's Crossing 24:00 World News
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EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quesneish 770733 Civil Defence Qat Alia 674700 Ambulance 193, 77511 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 778333 Civil Defence rescue 62200-3 Fire headquarters 62200-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 674700 Electric Power Co. 626381 Municipal water complaints 771258 Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08) 533060	NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Walid Masri 675485 Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 624830 Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 896046 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdous pharmacy 787136 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nairookh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 TAXIS: Al Wadhia taxi 641833 Al Khaloud taxi 664888 Bassam taxi 811857 Ghazal taxi 621177 Hayam taxi 817411 Balasemah taxi 854120 Bahrain taxi 773034 Jenzawi taxi 896743
PRAYER TIMES 05:02 Fajr 06:27 Sunrise 11:31 Dhuh 14:15 'Asr 16:26 Maghreb 18:00 Isha	HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/332 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816 Alshih Maternity, J. Amn 643412 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 85844 Al-Muasher Hospital 6672719 The Islamic, Abdali 66617237 Al-Ahl, Abdali 6661646 Italian, Al-Muhajirin 7751126 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155
MONEY EXCHANGE Wednesday rates Local sell/buy rates in fils Belgian franc 179.2 / 187.9 French franc 59.5 / 60.7 Italian lire 27.4 / 27.9 Japanese yen (for 100) 258.3 / 265 Swedish krona 55.4 / 56.5 Swiss franc 247.5 / 252.9 U.K. sterling pound 599.6 / 613.5 U.S. dollar 329.6 / 334.9 W. German mark 201.7 / 205.9	GENERAL Jordan Television 775111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 664121 Price complaints 661776 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11
WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. An increase in temperature is expected, with the appearance of clouds at different altitudes. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.	MARKET PRICES Up/down prices in fils per kg. Apple (different kinds) 340 / 250 Apple (French) 410 / 350 Banana 350 / 300 Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 240 Beans 130 / 80 Beans (red) 650 / 380 Beetroot 250 / 200 Cabbage 40 / 40 Carrot 300 / 250 Cauliflower 100 / 70 Cucumber 250 / 180 Dates (box) 1200 / 800 Eggplant (large) 70 / 40 Eggplant (small) 130 / 90 Garlic 400 / 300 Grapefruit 130 / 100 Lemon 130 / 80 Mandarin 250 / 200 Mallow 250 / 200 Marrow 100 / 80 Onion (green) 120 / 80 Onion (dry) 200 / 140 Oranges (Abu surra) 280 / 220 Oranges (Shammout) 180 / 140 Pepper (hot) 130 / 100 Pepper (sweet) 100 / 70 Potato 250 / 180 Radish 70 / 40 Spinach 80 / 40 Tomatoes 130 / 80 Turnip 160 / 120

06:09 The World Today 06:25 A Letter from Northern Ireland 06:30 Financial News 06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports Roundup 06:50 World News 06:55 From the Weeklies 07:00 Multitask 07:05 30 Years of American Top Ten Hits 07:10 Close Down 07:15 BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1223 KHz 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Country Style 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 30 Years of American Top Ten Hits 07:10 Close Down 07:15 BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1223 KHz 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Country Style 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 30 Years of American Top Ten Hits 07:10 Close Down 07:15 BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1223 KHz 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Country Style 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 30 Years of American Top Ten Hits 07:10 Close Down 07:15 BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1223 KHz 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Country Style 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:05 30 Years of American Top Ten Hits 07:10 Close Down 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Her Majesty Queen Noor inspects products on display at a charity bazaar on Wednesday (Petra photo).

Queen Noor opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurated the annual charity bazaar of the Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. The proceeds of the bazaar will benefit the society's humanitarian projects.

The Queen was welcomed upon arriving at the Marriott Hotel, where the one-day bazaar was held, by Princess Majidah Ra'd, chairwoman of the society's board. The Queen made a tour of the different wings of the bazaar

and inspected various items on display.

A total of 21 Arab and foreign embassies and their respective communities, in addition to a number of local charitable societies, took part in the bazaar. The different wings displayed a variety of products from various nations like handicrafts, jewelry, perfumes, embroideries, food confectioneries, leather products, children's books as well as handicrafts from the society's handicapped person.

The opening ceremony was

attended by several officials, members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan and their wives, and an audience of invited guests, mostly people involved in voluntary and social development work.

The society was established in 1972. Its training and its rehabilitation centre in Amman, which was established in 1984, is considered one of the most important projects that cater for the need of the physically handicapped people, helping them to adapt to their community.

Prince Hassan opens new complex for British embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan formally opens a new British embassy building at Abdoun district in Amman on Wednesday. The inauguration ceremony was organised by the Jordan-British Society whose patron is Prince Hassan himself. Prince Hassan was welcomed by British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. A.J. Coles, and members of the Jordan-British Society. The ambassador delivered an address, welcoming Prince Hassan and praising his role in promoting British-Jordanian relations. Prince Hassan

toured the two-storey building and was the first visitor to sign the embassy's new register. The embassy, situated on a 25-dunum area of land, was built in 17 months by a consortium of British and Jordanian contractors. Mr. Coles said in his speech that his government had "entered into the spirit of the thing and will shortly replace an old British ambassador with a new one." Mr. Coles, ambassador in Jordan since November 1984, is due to be replaced in early February by Mr. Anthony Reeve, 49.

Irbid elects new council

IRBID (J.T.) — The northern city of Irbid has a new nine-member municipal council, elected in a two-day local election in which nearly 37,000 people took part. Mr. Hussein Al Abboushi, deputy governor of Irbid, announced the names of the winners late Tuesday.

He said that Dr. Abdul Razzak Tubeishat, the present mayor of the city, won 9,887 votes; Mr. Sami Rusheidat, 9,648 votes; Mr. Hassan Jaradat, 7,635; Mr. Mohammad Bani Hani, 7,443; Mr. Sami Qasas, 7,450; Mr. Misseh Al Azzeh, 7,312; Mr. Issam Hatamleh, 7,267; Faisal Abu Al Rub, 7,194; and Ibrahim Shatat, 6,963 votes.

The result showed that five members of the "Cooperative Bloc," led by Dr. Tubeishat and four from the "Reform Bloc," led by Mr. Sami Rusheidat were elected to the new council which will serve for four years.

The election was due to have been completed in one day, but due to poor turnout and to allow for more people to take part in the elections, the polls were extended for a second day, Tuesday, an unprecedented practice in Irbid's history.

The total number of eligible voters is nearly 69,000 of a population estimated by the Department of Statistics to be 150,000. According to local election officials votes were cast at 53 different polling stations around the city supervised by 28 committees.

The 18 candidates, grouped under the two blocs and their supporters, watched the entire process of voting, and according to Brig. Abdul Rahman Al Udwan, the director of Irbid police, sufficient observers were placed at each ballot box to ensure the safe conduct of the election.

can only encourage them to become more adamant and persistent in carrying out aggression. Exposing these enemies of peace and containing them by steadfastness and confrontation is the only means for bringing them back to the right course and to peace.

"We Arabs should always be vigilant and prepared to confront these enemies of peace and able to defend our Arab land and safeguard our legitimate rights."

At the outset of Wednesday's graduation ceremony the commander of the Royal Command and Staff Academy made a speech thanking the King for patronising the ceremony and urging the graduates to apply their knowledge in practical deeds.

King Hussein distributed awards and diplomas to the graduates. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Majali, presidents of Yarmouk and Mu'ta Universities and senior officials and military attaches in diplomatic missions in Amman.

Iraqi delegation concludes successful talks, ends visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi side to the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee meeting, which ended in Amman Tuesday night, left for Baghdad Wednesday. The delegation, led by Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan, first Iraqi deputy premier and member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Higher Command Council, was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, cabinet members and senior officials.

The committee on Tuesday signed the minutes of talks held in Amman over the past few days. The talks were designed to increase the annual volume of trade between Jordan and Iraq to \$900 million in 1988 and to take measures to remove obstacles impeding the trade between the two countries.

The minutes signed by Mr. Ramadan and Mr. Rifai also provided for the exchange of trade delegations and the expansion of trade fairs held by either side in Amman and Baghdad.

According to the minutes, the committee examined the achievements of the Iraqi-Jordanian Industrial Company and approved a new strategy which envisages the establishment of high yielding economic projects, and also approved the company's strategy

for 1988. Upon departure, Mr. Ramadan sent a cable to Mr. Rifai voicing his delegation's appreciation for the hospitality accorded to them in Amman. Mr. Ramadan said in his cable that bilateral relations were bound to witness progressive developments serving the peoples of both countries and the aspirations of the Arab Nation.

In another development, the board of directors of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC) on Wednesday reviewed reports from the board chairman Mu'tazz Al Bilbeisi and the company manager Jamil Ibrahim on the company's performance in 1987 and plans for 1988.

Mr. Bilbeisi later told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the

company's fleet of trucks transported 1.32 million tonnes of goods in 1987, an increase of 22.5 per cent over last year, and reduced its expenses by 1.2 per cent over the same period of 1986.

The company, Mr. Bilbeisi said, has announced a tender for the purchase of 150 new trucks which will begin arriving in Jordan in the first half of 1988.

Mr. Bilbeisi attributed the increase in the volume of goods transported by the company's trucks to the extra efforts of the workers and the high efficiency of the people in charge of operations.

Referring to the company's new plan for 1988, he said that the control stations at the Aqaba-Baghdad route would be developed and increased in number to cope with the growing volume of the company's fleet which would reach 900 with the arrival of the new shipments.

He added that the company would set up a maintenance workshop.

On Monday, Mr. Jamil Ibrahim announced that the company made a profit of JD 3 million from its operations in 1987.

Seminar on social development calls for setting up new centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day seminar on evaluating the work of social development centres in Jordan ended here Wednesday with a call for drawing up a national comprehensive plan for raising funds to establish new social development centres in the country and to boost the programmes and activities of existing ones.

The recommendation was one of many resolutions and suggestions passed by the 50 participants in the seminar which was held under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund.

A final statement issued at the closing session of the seminar, which was the first of its kind in the country, called on public and private organisations to carry out development projects in industry, agriculture and services sectors in order to generate increased income that can finance the activities and the programmes of social and community centres.

The participants recommended that efforts be exerted on the popular level with help from private organisations to implement social services projects. The delegates urged institutions running different social and community centres to coordinate their work to avoid duplicity and save funds.

The statement said that coordination should be made with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund in providing services to local communities and that information media in the country should be exploited to attain the maximum humanitarian objectives.

Princess Basma, who attended the final session, voiced appreciation to all those who worked out the recommendations which, she said, all concerned institutions ought to try hard to implement. Princess Basma announced that another meeting will be held on Saturday to set up a committee to be entrusted with following up and executing the recommendations.

Ministry to build health centres

RAMTHA (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday laid the foundation stones for three primary health centres in the Ramtha district.

The centres are to be built at Ramtha, Turra and Northern Mazar in the northern part of Jordan, near the border with Syria. Dr. Hamzeh later laid the foundation stone for an integrated health centre to be set up at Kufr Al Maa in the Irbid

governorate.

In a speech on the occasion, the minister said that geographical considerations were taken into account because health services should cover the widest possible area and offer services to the largest sector of the population.

These health centres, Dr. Hamzeh said, should be regarded as a prelude to providing comprehensive health care. At present, there are 75 health centres in the Irbid region offering services to at

least 550,000 people, the minister noted. He said that these centres offer dentistry care, general health care, mother and child care and vaccination services as well as emergency services around the clock.

Before the ceremonies, the minister called at the district governor's office in Ramtha and reviewed requests from local officials for medical care in their areas.

King: Israel trying to fight tide of history in occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

"I congratulate each one of you on your graduation the 28th of its kind by this academy which has served as a tribune providing the Armed Forces with commanders and officers. I congratulate the graduates from Arab and Islamic countries and your colleague from France and wish you all success in your endeavours."

"This time last year, in my address to the 27th batch which graduated from this academy, I appealed to the Arab leaders to respond to the call for convening an Arab summit meeting as soon as possible to discuss the general Arab situation with a view to achieving solidarity among Arab countries and launch collective Arab action in the face of external challenges that threaten the Arab Order and for solving Arab problems which continually breed divisions among Arab states."

"Nearly a month ago the summit was held in Amman and was welcomed by the Arab masses who saw in it a new stepping stone for a greater march. Today's ceremony witnesses the graduation of Jordanian, Arab and Islamic officers, serving as a living symbol of this nation's unity and destiny and cohesion in the military field. This nation is confronted with numerous dangers foremost of which is the constant and organised threat directed against its security. You, along with your colleagues serving in the Armed Forces, shoulder more than any other people the responsibility of defending the security of this nation and its order which is based on enhancing the principles and the pillars of Arab sovereignty on Arab land and safeguarding the components of Arab identity and Arab culture in an integrated economic framework and mutual help in security striving for survival, progress and prosperity."

"For the outside world our problems appear to be connected with regional stability. But for us they constitute national security problems. Ambitious forces try to contain these problems instead of solving them because they hope to achieve their own objectives. But we regard national security problems and foreign ambitions as a time bomb planted among in our midst."

"Our national security means first of all, recovering our legitimate rights and our capability for defending these rights and protecting them. By our rights we mean Arab land and freedom of choice for Arab citizens to live on this land."

"Based on this we have charted our firm stand on the national and international fronts. On the international front, our policy is based on commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and rejection of subjugation to policies of containment. We look with open minds and positiveness to solving our regional problems, in the

Gulf and in the occupied territories, by peaceful means and in accordance with the international law and U.N. resolutions on these problems."

"On the national front, our policy emanates from the belief in and struggle for building intrinsic Arab power in the military, economic, social and cultural fields to provide ourselves with the means to defend our nation and our rights and to attain stability and prosperity."

"Your graduation day coincides with great events that bear significant indications."

"One of the most significant events was the convening of the Amman summit meeting, which was no less significant in its aims and dimensions than the superpowers signing an agreement for reducing medium-range nuclear missiles in Asia and Europe."

"We welcome the U.S.-Soviet treaty because it indicates the desire to coexist with others in security and peace despite differences in ideology and economic and social systems. We hope this spirit will expand and prevail in the globe and serve as the principle for dealings among nations of the world where all can coexist in peace."

"We sincerely hope that this spirit of peaceful coexistence will dominate the Iranian regime and the Israeli leadership, both of which are pursuing aggressive policies that can only bring about disasters and instability for this part of the world."

"The Iranian regime adamantly refuses a peaceful settlement with Iraq, thus blocking the way for a constructive cooperation in the Gulf region and placing obstacles in the path of greater regional cooperation within the framework of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. By so doing, Iran is bringing about destruction for its own people and the other peoples in the region. Good neighbourly relations which many nations aspire cannot be achieved except through dialogue and understanding without threat of force. Gone are the days when nations resorted to the use of arms to achieve their ambitions or to export their ideas or principles. Any one adhering to this outmoded method is bound to bring harm to himself before the others."

"The Israeli leadership, which continues to reject the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East, is still pursuing a policy which contradicts with the course of history and which has been dead for more than four decades. For the past 20 years Israel has been occupying Arab land by force of arms and colonising the Arab territory in implementation of a carefully planned colonialist programme and it is thus adopting the old colonial concepts which were trampled by the peoples of the earth struggling for freedom."

"Can this leadership stop dancing to the tunes of colonialism and wake up to the new reality, to

an age of freedom?"

"Is it not time for Israel to realise that geographic lines cannot be drawn by guns and rifles because they are bound to end by the power of the people's will and their determination to attain freedom."

"Has Israel not yet learnt from history and has it not realised yet the meaning of the constant uprising of the Arab people under occupation in Gaza, Hebron, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus and Golan? And in the refugee camps and every town in the occupied Arab land? Has it not realised that oppression and brutal action and collective punishment are pointless weapons that cannot stem the will for freedom, deep-rooted in the conscience and arms of the Palestinian people under occupation. Resorting to weapons can only result in prolonging the pain and deepening the wounds and intensifying the bitterness. Freedom is the truth and truth shall triumph to enhance the meaning of peace for all."

"The superpowers have achieved a great feat on the road

to scrapping nuclear arms out of a sense of responsibility towards mankind. But we in our Middle East region are still hoping to see this spirit in the U.N. Security Council's dealing with the Middle East questions."

"We hope that the council will not consider regional conflicts as a chance tempting its members to exploit them for their own selfish interest. We hope that the council and its permanent members will consider the current conflicts as cracks in the structure of world security and peace and an incentive for all to offer initiatives for addressing such a situation."

"World peace and security are one issue and solving part of this problem should lead to the solution of all other parts. The Middle East region, which has had the lion's share in regional conflicts, deserves careful attention and intensified efforts from all nations and at all fronts. All nations should contribute to the establishment of world peace and security so that peoples can dedicate their time and efforts for construction and development. Condoning the enemies of peace

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Human rights a la American style

THE SUPERPOWERS are deeply involved in regional conflicts wherever they are. As crisis or conflict managers, they feel that they should review them at meetings or summits they hold. It has simply become a ritual, albeit a parenthetical diversion, amidst their concerns of global interests. At their summit earlier this month President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev did discuss regional conflicts but their respective positions on them remain as wide as ever, allowing the conflicts to continue unabated.

At the Washington summit, Afghanistan figured most prominently, because it is there that the superpowers are needlessly locked in a proxy war since 1979. At first, the Soviets were saying that their 115,000 troops, sent to bolster the Afghan government, would be withdrawn if the United States stopped supplying arms to the rebels fighting to overthrow the government. This proposal was unacceptable to the U.S. Furthermore, the U.S. has been supplying the rebels with very sophisticated weapons, encouraging them to force the Soviets to withdraw. In the latest move to end the conflict, Mr. Gorbachev proposed that he would be ready to pull out his troops, provided Afghanistan remained a non-aligned country. Non-alignment is not a highly credible concept in the American lexicon which seems to define everything in terms of black and white when it comes to the question of international relations. Therefore, the U.S. could not be persuaded to believe that Afghanistan could be weaned away from its allegiance to the Soviets unless forced to do so by the rebels.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the two sides remained where they were before the summit. The U.S. insisted that Resolution 598 should be followed up with another resolution in the U.N. Security Council in order to place an arms embargo on a recalcitrant Iran that is refusing to accept a ceasefire. While deploring Iran's position on the conflict, the Soviet side showed reluctance to agree to an arms embargo. Future potentials for close economic cooperation with Iran might be seen as one basic reason for the Soviet reluctance. Another is, with the war raging in the Gulf, the Soviets are not as affected as the West whose shipping and trade are regular targets for missiles from both Iran and Iraq. A third reason is that Iran's inclination seems to be growing stronger in favour of a Soviet presence in the Gulf as a counterweight to the U.S. in the area.

What received a raw deal at the summit was the Arab-Israeli conflict, at the core of which is the Palestinian problem. It was a glaring sign of protocol omission that it didn't even figure on the summit agenda. No doubt the importance and urgency in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict remained smothered well in advance of the summit. The Jewish lobby in the United States and Israel worked behind the scenes to keep a tight lid on the issue. In its place the question of human rights practices in the Soviet Union was allowed to be drummed up to ensure a media extravaganza. Questions of human rights practices in the Soviet Union, repeated ad nauseum, essentially amounted to one thing that the Soviet Jewry should be given freedom to emigrate to Israel and have them settled down in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

But at the same time as the summit was in progress and later when Mr. Gorbachev was being deluged with questions of human rights practices in the Soviet Union, American newspapers were galore with reports of Israeli atrocities in the West Bank and Gaza where Palestinians were shot at, teargassed and tortured for demanding their human rights. Nobody came up to ask Mr. Reagan why his government, which is supposedly championing human rights everywhere, blinked at violations of the same rights in the Israeli-occupied territories. Though staunch supporters of the Palestinian rights, the Soviets too refrained from asking that question to Mr. Reagan. Maybe they perceived that raising such a question would make little difference on U.S. support for Israeli practices in the occupied territories. The Soviet desire to improve relations with Israel might have also contributed in influencing the Soviets to maintain a studied diplomatic silence over the human rights violations in Palestine.

The treaty signed by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev in Washington may go down as an epoch-making event in the history of arms control negotiations. However, it is difficult to see how the Washington summit, by abandoning the Arab-Israeli conflict in benign neglect, can qualify to find a place even as a footnote in Middle Eastern history.

Haj Khamis: A lesson in economics

By Nayef S. Zubi

VISITING Jordan a few years ago, I came to know Haj Khamis, the owner of the grocery store across the street from where I lived during my visit. Haj Khamis has no claim to be a member of intellectual circles. He is no member of literary salons, nor is he a professional economist. However, his claim to understanding economic theory of choice, is undisputed. In fact, he understood it much better than those filling the air with hysterical cries, uneducated remarks and misinformation campaigns regarding the economic realities of foreign labour in Jordan.

In Jordan, the confusion regarding the economics of foreign labour is abundant. The hysteria about their presence is unjustified. Policies curbing and restraining their presence, contribute in many cases, to the distortion of an already skewed wage structure.

Haj Khamis knew well that without the presence of construction workers (mainly Egyptians) close to his grocery store, a few years ago, his business would not have thrived, to the point where he started not only expanding it, but contemplating having a new wife (a sign of material well being). My friend Haj Khamis justifies this by his and his wife's inability to bear children. He wants to be called Abu Ibrahim for real.

Haj Khamis understood that without the abundant supply of foreign labour, pressure on wages would build up, less construction and less demand for construction services would result. With it, less demand for the goods on his grocery store shelves would materialise. He understood that without foreign labour he could not have maintained his job, nor could he have rented his basement.

Foreign labour for Haj Khamis was not displacing Jordanian labour, nor depressing wages in Jordan. Foreign workers, as he understood their impact, do not in general destroy job opportunities. They create them. They contribute to producing highly demanded goods and services. Their aggregate demand for goods and services, boost output, employment, and production. All these simple propositions of economic life are appreciated by Haj

Khamis, while missed or grossly misrepresented by economic committees and heads of planning offices.

One question is: Does foreign labour displace Jordanian labour? Another is: Does foreign labour depress wages in Jordan? The theory of displacement and wage depression rests on a zero sum game of the economy. What A gains, is exactly what B loses. The fact of the matter is foreign labour increases Jordan endowment of labour and complements other factors of production.

An expansion in the country's national productive input base (labour is an input), will increase the nation's total wealth. Foreign workers increase the demand as they spend their earnings. This would help offset the temporary drop in wages, if such a drop happens, during an adjustment period. The foreign labour relieves pressures on wages, for services in short supply. The end result would be lower prices for goods and services. Who would complain about lower prices?

In general terms, the presence of foreign labour does not depress labour wages unless a stationary economy is assumed, where capital is fixed. In such a case, the wages would fall. Even under such a scenario the aggregate wages, which is now lower, would be more than offset by higher output and profits brought about by a larger production base. The doomsday scenario of a stagnant economy caused by the influx of cheap foreign labour, does not make sense. We are usually interested in a dynamic economic setting. In such setting, capital begins adapting to the new influx of labour. Once this process sets in motion, the demand for labour will increase, and wages need not fall except for a short adjustment period. In such a case, the remuneration for labour and capital will not change. Employment, output, and profits will rise. In short, the foreign labour will boost demand for goods and services. Strong economic growth, higher asset prices, output, and employment will follow, compared to what otherwise would have been. All this assumes, so far, that foreign labour does not need welfare, social security. Furthermore, foreign workers pay their share of taxes for the

services they use. It assumes no political ramifications. Foreign workers do not come with their vote as is the case in the United States.

The advancement that Jordan has achieved through its intensive investment in its human capital has caused the migration of the Jordan labour, a relatively skilled labour, to take a piece of the show in the Gulf states during the oil boom of the 1970's. An excess demand for different categories of labour (skilled and unskilled), has to be met by importing foreign labour services that has positively contributed to Jordan's economic growth.

While the presence of foreign workers might have negative social implications, it is far from clear — from an economic perspective at least — that their presence hurts Jordan. The effect of foreign labour on crime levels, social tension, and moral standards are important issues. Though usually hard to quantify, they should be included in the final analysis of the economics of foreign labour in Jordan. Hysterical cries, uneducated guesses, and special interest motivation should not guide our policy in this area. We all know that unemployment in Jordan is hitting the hardest among professionals, and not among low skilled workers.

Haj Khamis understood the economic realities of foreign labour in Jordan. He is no holder of a Ph.D in economics like many in our planning offices. But, it has been said, that it takes a Ph.D in economics so as not to be able to understand the obvious. I owe Haj Khamis a better understanding of my economics. I might have distorted his simple understanding of basic economic principles in my attempt to use fancier words. I apologise for the Haj, because again it might take another Ph.D so as not to be able to communicate the obvious.

Before joining the Federal Loan Home Mortgage Corporation as a senior financial economist, Dr. Zubi taught business finance at University of Southern California (USC) school of business. He holds a Ph.D in business administration, and is a graduate of USC school of engineering.

Latin debt hopes raise thorny questions

Latin American countries are looking at the secondary market as a possible solution to their debt problems. Stephen Fidler looks at the arguments surrounding the use of secondary market prices to revalue Third World bank repayments.

LONDON — The recent summit meeting of eight Latin American developing countries in Acapulco has brought the secondary market in bank loans to developing countries once more to the forefront of the debate about the Third World debt crisis.

With an increasingly unified voice, the main debtor countries of Latin America are looking to ease their debt burdens by seeking recognition of the big discounts to face value that are indicated by prices for loans in this secondary market.

The value of Peru's debt, for example, is indicated at a mere seven cents to the dollar; that of the biggest debtor Brazil at about 50 cents.

As Mr. Enrique Iglesias, Uruguay's foreign minister, said: "The market says the Latin American debt is not worth \$400 billion but \$200 billion... If we believe in the market, then why don't we follow it?"

Following the market slavishly, say bankers worried by the development, would be the equivalent of allowing a tiny tail to wag a huge dog.

Current estimates of the volume of Third World loans traded suggest trades are running between \$12 billion and \$15 billion annually. This is significantly up on the figure a year ago, perhaps as much as double, but it suggests that a tiny proportion of the total market volume is traded.

All secondary markets provide a valuation for a stock of assets based on trading of a marginal amount of those assets, but the ratio between trading volume and the stock of assets in this market is extraordinarily low. Compare it, for example, to the New York Stock Exchange, where on an average day (not year) some \$10 billion worth of shares are traded, affecting the value of some \$2 trillion in assets.

It is a point which has been well recognised by the accountants. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, for example, has said secondary market prices are "based on values established in a thin market, which might not be the best indicator of the fair value of the underlying assets."

The thinness of the market is accentuated by the accounting problems faced by banks in trading loans.

They are particularly acute for banks in the U.S., where the problem of having their loan portfolios "contaminated" by sales of loans has not been resolved. Contamination implies that all a bank's loans to a certain country should be valued at the same price as those it sold in the secondary market. The question is whether a bank's loan portfolio should be regarded as an investment — and marked to a market price daily — or as a loan portfolio which is held to maturity.

This problem has meant that outright sales for cash by banks into the market are rare. Much more common is the use of the market by banks to "rationalise"

their portfolios, moving out of those countries which they view negatively or with which they see no future business link and moving into those names that they favour.

A number of banks, viewing Poland's good record on paying debt interest, have recently, for example, swapped out of Latin American debt and into cheaper Polish loans.

The other main trigger to trading is debt-to-equity swap programmes, such as those run by Chile, Mexico and the Philippines. Where active programmes are in place, fairly active trading almost surely follows in these countries' debt. Nevertheless, the volumes of debt-equity swaps are limited, and many debtor countries — supported by a number of academics — are worried about the economic effects of too much swapping of debt into equity.

The market's main problem at the moment is simply the lack of new buyers.

There have been attempts to lure investors into the market, with offers of high yields, but there have been few takers. Attempts to interest buyers of U.S. junk bonds with Third World debt have so far foundered, and banks have not been inclined either to swap their Third World debt exposure for junk bonds.

That leaves the impression of a huge wall of sellers and a tiny number of buyers, most of which are tempted into the market by debt-to-equity swaps.

Financial Times news feature.

Palestinians explore new options

By Paul Lalor

AS THE search for an international conference drags on, Palestinians in the occupied territories have been exploring their options in recent months. The Amirav meetings, the first ever between members of the Herut party and pro-PLO Palestinians, were part of this process. Professor Sari Nussaliba of Birzeit University participated in the meetings and in an interview during a recent visit to Oxford spoke about the origins, evolution and purpose of the talks.

According to Nussaliba, Moshe Amirav, a member of the Herut and the Likud central committee, expressed his desire through a third party for a meeting with pro-PLO figures from the West Bank, Nussaliba and Salah Zuhaila, Akram Haniya's successor as editor of *Al-Shaab* newspaper, attended the first meeting at Amirav's home in July. Faisal Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Centre, was to be the third member of the Palestinian delegation but was under administrative detention at the time.

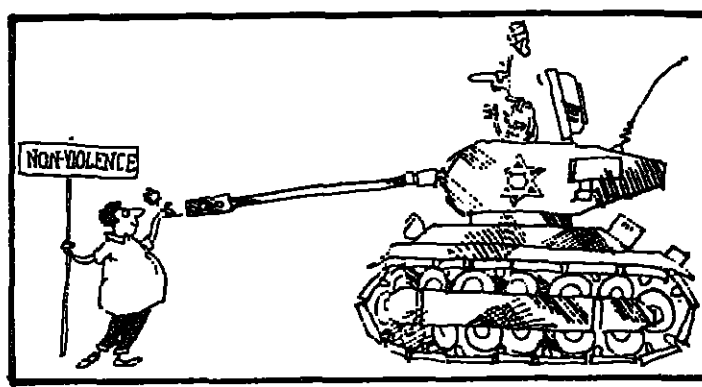
The Palestinians were astonished at the concessions Amirav was prepared to make, and asked him to put his thoughts in writing. He produced two documents, one secret, the other for public consumption. In the following weeks the Palestinians, joined now by Hussein, sought to fuse the two documents.

By the end of the fourth and last meeting on August 25, agreement had been reached on an English text as basis for negotiations between the Israeli government and the PLO. For the Palestinians, it recognised their right to self-determination and the PLO as their legitimate representative, and for Amirav it ensured Israeli control over *Eretz*

Israel and a solution to the demographic problem. He proposed to present it personally to Arafat at the NGO conference in Geneva from September 7-9, and the Palestinians agreed to go with him. However, without warning or explanation, Amirav informed Nussaliba "on the night before his departure" for Geneva that the deal was off.

In Amirav's absence, DFPE MK Charlie Biton presented the proposals to Arafat at the NGO conference. The PLO chairman conditionally accepted them as a basis for negotiations. Biton, unaware of the background to the proposals, misinterpreted Arafat's statement and announced a major breakthrough in the search for peace at a subsequent press conference. This raised a storm in Israel which was quelled only by Arafat's denial of Biton's claim. The Israeli and Western press portrayed this as yet another example of Arafat's unreliability. In fact, as Nussaliba explained, Arafat had been expecting Amirav, and his acceptance was conditional on the proposals being presented by him.

During the talks with Amirav, Nussaliba and the other Palestinians became increasingly convinced that they were witnessing a Likud peace initiative. Amirav's initial and continuing willingness to make concessions contrasted sharply with Shimon Peres' intransigence in a meeting with Nussaliba some months before, particularly on the question of the recognition of the PLO. He claimed to be speaking for supporters within the Likud and suggested these would increase if the Palestinians cooperated with him. Likud MKs Ehud Olmert and Dan Meridor showed some interest in a peace initiative during private talks with Nussaliba, and when Shimon rejected an international conference and called in-



stead for direct negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, the feeling grew in the Palestinian camp that even Shimon in his declining years was interested in a peace settlement. It was in this climate that the Palestinians moved from their cautious "listening" role to a more positive one involving efforts to fuse the two documents and produce a more favourable basis for PLO-Israeli negotiations. They felt vindicated in this approach when Amirav offered to present the proposals to Arafat, which would mean at very least a meeting between a member of the Herut party and the chairman of the PLO. There was therefore a lot of bitterness and disappointment when Amirav failed to go at the last moment, because of "cold feet, the political climate or pressure from above." This increased when news of the meetings broke, and Amirav claimed he had been acting on his own initiative all along and denied he had ever intended going to Geneva to meet Arafat.

Despite these disappointments, widespread criticism, and being beaten up at Birzeit University, Nussaliba defends Palestinian participation in the talks. He is convinced they were more complex and significant than Amirav now claims, and in any case he believes that Palestinians should ex-

ploring different options if only to stimulate the political process in more orthodox spheres. The Palestinians therefore should be open to approaches from the Likud and take advantage of its internal divisions over the demographic problem and other issues. Any advances or concessions (like Amirav's preparedness to meet Arafat and recognise the PLO) would stimulate the peace process at a time when the Labour party is solidly united behind Shimon Peres in his ongoing but slow-moving search for an international conference. In this context of political stagnation and creeping annexation it may be true, says Nussaliba, that "while the Labour alignment can make war, only the Likud can make peace."

In recent weeks however, in response to the furor caused by these and other meetings, the PLO has created a committee under Abu Jihad to deal with matters relating to the occupied territories, including dialogue with Israelis. This represents a return to the official line of talks only with progressive pro-PLO Israelis. Nevertheless, as hopes fade for an international conference in the near future, according to Nussaliba, it is unlikely that the secret negotiations will cease. — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Exemplary cooperation

JORDANIAN-Iraqi joint cooperation is no substitute for collective action by all the Arab countries, but it is no doubt complementary to it. Such cooperation and its achievement in different fields will no doubt contribute towards the final objective: Economic integration among all Arab states. The joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee is the instrument with which such integration can be achieved, and it is a means for bolstering Iraqi-Jordanian joint ventures in economic, agricultural and industrial fields. The current Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation is bound to add a new dimension to the general effort for achieving an all-out integration, and the fruits of this cooperation benefit all Arabs. In fact, relations between the two countries are exemplary and reflect the determination of the leaderships in Amman and Baghdad to pursue all endeavours to arrive at total integration that can fulfil the aspirations of Arab masses by achieving economic prosperity. These joint efforts are important steps towards removing all weakness within the Arab World.

Sawt Al Shaab: Cooperation on firm basis

JORDANIAN-Iraqi relations are based on firm basis, and have deep roots, well entrenched in the belief of the Arab Nation and its struggle in the face of internal and external challenges. These relations are being strengthened through joint committees in the two countries, and with a view to serving the goals and the objectives of the Amman summit meeting and its resolutions. These relations are being strengthened all the time because King Hussein strongly believes in strong ties between Arab sister countries, leading towards integration in all respects. In fact, Jordan's relations with Iraq are exemplary and ought to be copied by other Arab countries wishing to boost their cooperation and strengthen their future ties. The minutes signed by the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee in Amman aims at raising bilateral trade to the \$900 million level in 1988, and at removing all obstacles in the path of bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

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T.V. showman scandalises Italy

By Paul Holmes
Renter

ROME — Midway through a variety show the presenter stops the music to denounce the company that sponsors the show, insult politicians and rally viewers to mass protest. It is a television producers' nightmare.

But the nightmare becomes reality every Saturday night in Italy on state television's controversial live variety show *Fantastico*. Now furious politicians are insisting it stop and the producers are keeping their fingers crossed it will.

At the centre of the storm is singer-actor Adriano Celentano, the country's highest-paid performer, whose unorthodox behaviour has fascinated Italians ever since he woke them up to rock and roll in the 1960's.

In the two months since he took charge of *Fantastico*, in between the song and dance Celentano has:

- Accused the commercial sponsors, a leading soap powder manufacturer, of "homicide by pollution";
- Branded the nation's political parties an elitist clique which treats the public as idiots;
- Campaigned against nuclear

power by declaring that *Fantastico* wouldn't be worth producing in 20 years time because "there will only be 28 of us around" after an atomic war.

In his most controversial outburst, accompanied by bloody film of baby seals being clubbed to death, Celentano told 11 million viewers on the eve of November 8 referendums on nuclear power and legal reform to write "hunting is against love" on their ballot slips.

Few followed the advice, not least because the show's producers made Celentano withdraw it. State television, RAI, also broadcast repeated warnings that voters would be invalidating their ballots if they did what the singer said.

The incident has opened Celentano, 49, to possible criminal charges for infringing a ban on campaigning on the eve of a vote and united most political parties against him.

"Celentano has gone too far, he has got to be sacked," said Liberal Party parliamentarian Paolo Battistuzzi.

An editorial in the influential newspaper *Corriere Della Sera* suggested Celentano should stick to singing or be invited to take a rest. "He has lost touch with

reality," it said.

RAI, which is closely controlled by parliament, has also been accused of breaching its obligations as a public broadcasting service by allowing the entertainer a platform for his views in the three-hour show.

It now hopes to have put the furor behind it after fining Celentano 200 million lire (\$160,000) and threatening automatic dismissal if he steps out of line again.

Celentano, whose fee for the four-month series is reported to be eight billion lire (\$6.5 million), has promised to match the fine with a donation of his own to research into the AIDS virus. He has also undertaken to submit his scripts to the producers in advance.

"Celentano's show is a novelty, for better or worse," RAI's Director-General Biagio Agnes said after the compromise was struck. "Relations with Celentano have turned out to be more difficult to manage than we imagined," he added.

RAI hired Celentano to host *Fantastico* after its last presenter, Pippo Baudo, left for a rival show, *Festival*, on the Canale 5 network of private broadcasting

Magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

In the fierce ratings war between the two programmes, *Fantastico* has been streets ahead of *Festival*, which attracts about six million viewers on a Friday night. Celentano's regular weekly "Monologue" is part of the new unorthodox approach and is intended primarily to woo a younger audience.

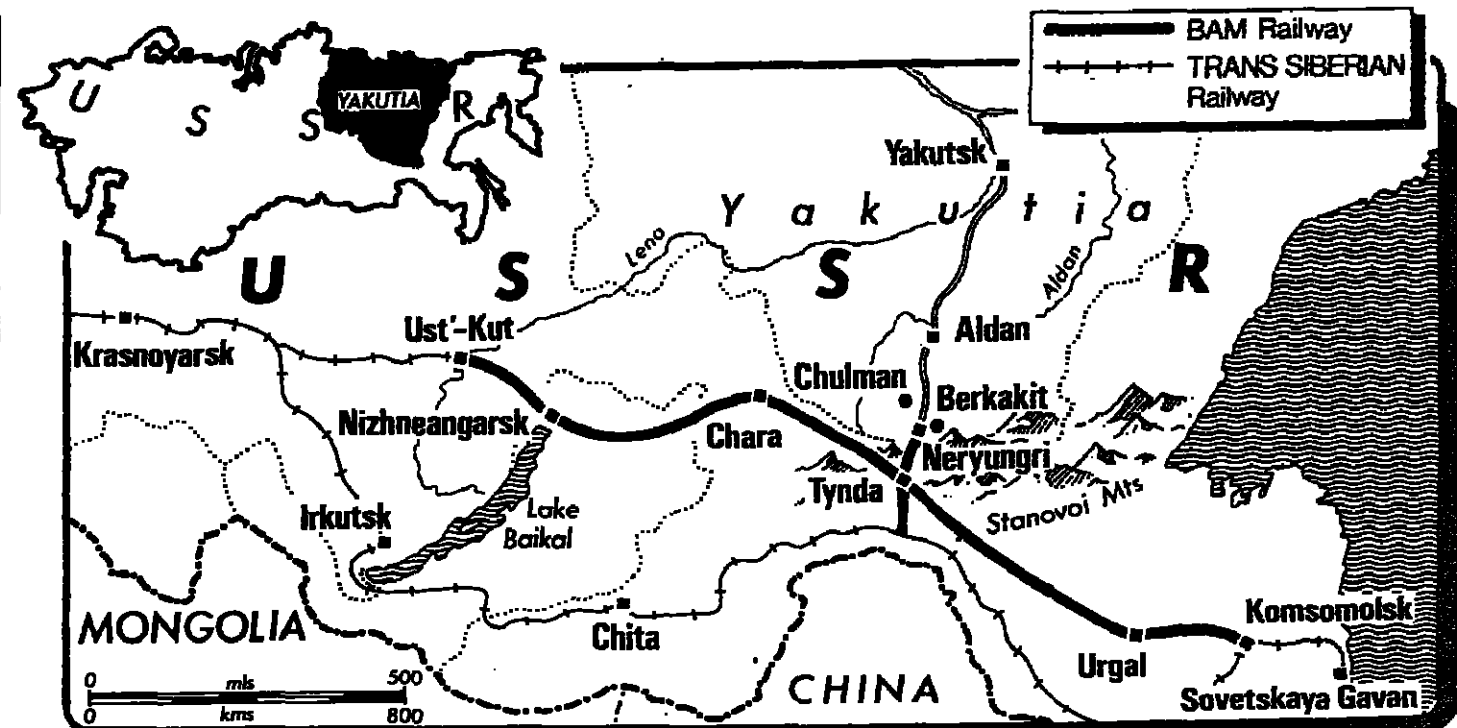
While song, dance and comedy are still part of the routine, gone are the slick suits and smooth talk of Baudo and most of the big prize money games.

Viewers are instead asked by a sometimes unshaven Celentano to donate money to build a village in Africa and help other people's dreams come true rather than their own.

The show attracted more than 13 million viewers on its opening night and though ratings have slipped to about 11 million *Fantastico* still draws about half the Italian television audience.

Critics describe it as the sort of show you either love or hate. Some ordinary Italians are less subtle.

"Talk about changing channels," said one man from Milan. "It's enough to make you want to change nationalities."



Siberia: For youth, a land of opportunity

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

TYNDA, USSR — Soviet young people are chasing a development boom into Siberia, braving its frigid hardships in exchange for the chance of a more promising future and higher rewards than those who stay behind.

Heeding the call of Komsomol, the Communist Party's youth organisation, tens of thousands of university graduates each spring are pledging their first years of work to the taming of Siberia, which together with the Soviet far east covers 13.7 million square kilometres — one and a half times the size of the United States.

Some come for the money. Salaries plus hardship bonuses average 400 rubles (\$635) a month, twice the national average for skilled industrial workers.

Others come for the relative freedom they find 4,800 or more kilometres from Moscow and the bureaucracy that directs industry in the nation's European regions.

But their venture into a resource-rich but dormant land — notorious for forced labour camps and penal colonies since the time of the Russian czars — is also a vital part of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's plan to transform the Soviet Union into an economic superpower as well as a military one.

While it still isn't a yuppie lifestyle 5,000 kms east-southeast of Moscow and just north of Manchuria in China, "it's a good place to start your life, in a new place where you can make a difference," said Vera Grinvald, a hydro engineer in her mid-30s and a mother of three children.

Despite their higher wages, many of Tynda's new pioneers live in shabby, concrete housing blocks propped on pillars drilled into the permafrost of this frontier boomtown.

Those working on the railroad live in insulated old railroad cars and construction shacks in a sort of circular trailer town that houses nearly half of Tynda's population of 63,000.

A maze of rutted asphalt roads connects hilltop highrises with a skirt of shantytowns, and in between the buildings are unplanted stretches of ground that freeze solid in winter and become seas of mud in two months of summer.

For active young people, there isn't much to do after work but play basketball or go cross-country skiing.

But a 17-year-old youth who gave his name only as Alexander said, "I don't feel isolated here. ... I have friends and a social life in Siberia. I don't have to live in Moscow to know who Michael Jackson is."

And simple things become pleasures.

"It's too hard to explain if you haven't lived through it," said Yelena Ivankovich of the local Communist Party council. "After having water delivered to barrels outside our doors for a year, when we got running water to our street, we thought we were the most fortunate people in the world."

Tynda is the capital and midpoint of the Baikal-Amur mainline railroad (BAM), the largest of Soviet "hero projects," a 1,938-mile (3,118-km) trail of track blazed through virgin land the government has defined as the next economic heartland.

By the year 2000, the railroad and the enterprises it will carry eastward are expected to make Siberia the nation's fourth major industrial zone, joining the Volga River Basin, the Ural Mountains and the Donets Valley.

BAM, hailed as "the project of the century," is intended to take people and tools into the Siberian frontier and transport the region's minerals, ores, gold and precious stones out to the western and southern areas of the country, where 90 per cent of the population lives.

"We build BAM, and BAM

builds us," said Yelena Fedorets, the young wife of a railroad builder, reciting one of the local slogans and saying she doesn't mind the difficult conditions.

Galina Maslennikova, now 38, moved here with her husband and two sons five years ago from the Ukraine to work on the railroad.

"The project was under way and workers were needed, and we wanted to do or part," she said.

Olga Chukova, an economist in her mid 30s, has three sons and a spacious four-room apartment. She and her husband came to Siberia 12 years ago.

"I never planned to stay long," she said. "But once I started to work, I got to like it here and now I don't plan to go anywhere else in my life."

Despite stalwarts such as Olga Chukova, the government is still trying to establish a stable work force in the region if it is to tap Siberia's wealth. BAM's director, Valery A. Gorbunov, said 30 per cent of the railroad's employees leave the project each year.

But Vyacheslav Seliverstov, deputy director of the Siberian Economics Institute, said in an interview that 30 million people now live in Siberia and he suggested the normal population growth — with a birthrate 20 per cent higher than the national average — will provide an adequate work force for the future.

One is Tatyana Manatyeva, 29, a deputy director of a dormitory, where the average age of the 578 residents is 28.

She said she came to Ust-Ilimsk six years ago with two other single women from Kazakhstan and has a one-room apartment of her own — a rarity

for single women living in Moscow or Leningrad.

"My heart drew me here," Ms. Manatyeva said. "From Grammar school on I heard so much about Siberia and Ust-Ilimsk. It all sounded so romantic and adventurous."

What stands out in Ust-Ilimsk is the number of women — 20 per cent more of them than men.

"We have a surplus of women, and we have trouble finding jobs for them now," said Andrei V. Andreyev of the city's Communist Party council. "We've begun construction of a health institute and some sewing enterprises to provide more work for women."

One reason for the surplus is that half the marriages registered in the Soviet Union end in divorce, and many women raising children on their own find it difficult to get by in the European Soviet cities to the west. Wages for women workers back west average about 120 rubles (\$190) a month, but in Ust-Ilimsk the average for women and men is 350 rubles (\$555).

"Here a single woman can support herself and even one or two children, and we are seeing a lot of them coming to Ust-Ilimsk," Andreyev said.

Ust-Ilimsk is growing by more than 5,000 residents a year, and its population should grow to 200,000 by the turn of the century, Andreyev said.

Ust-Ilimsk is better off than many newer Siberian settlements, where housing is critically short and social services almost nonexistent. But it is not without its problems.

It has too few doctors, and good clothing seldom makes its way this far east.

Newcomers, even families, often live in communal housing or dormitories for a couple of years before permanent housing can be arranged.

"Conditions are OK here, but of course we want an apartment of our own," said Galina Makovetskaya, a 31-year-old Ukrainian who came here with her husband a year ago. They and their 6-month-old daughter, Masha, live in two tiny rooms in a concrete-block dormitory built 15 years ago.

A higher-than-average birthrate among the city's young and relatively affluent population has flooded the education system, forcing the school day into two sessions.

Woody Allen discusses films, friends, and fatherhood

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — Woody Allen, the American actor and director who is about to become a first-time father, discussed his films and hopes for a baby girl in a TV interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. that appeared on Friday.

"I hope it's a she... that would be very important to me," Allen, 51, said of the child he and actress Mia Farrow, his longtime companion, are expecting. No due date has been announced.

The normally reclusive Allen, whose honours include a double win of Academy awards in 1978 for writing and directing "Annie Hall," appeared on what the BBC called his first British television interview in seven years. The network is screening nine Allen films between now and Christmas.

The hourlong show, "Woody Allen: Love, Death, Sex, and Matters Arising," was taped one afternoon in June at Allen's New York apartment.

Professor Christopher Frayling, the interviewer, is head of the department of cultural history at London's Royal College of Art.

"I don't feel I've made a great film yet in my life," Allen said, describing his standard as classics like Vittorio de Sica's "The Bicycle Thief" and Jean Renoir's "La Grande Illusion."

"I'd like to be remembered as someone who made at least one, if not one or two, really great films," he said.

Throughout the interview, Allen was his own harshest critic, saving his sharpest swipes for his earliest films.

He said the swinging 1965 sex comedy "What's New, Pussycat?" was an "undeserved" financial success.

His 1969 "Take the Money and Run," with Allen as the bumbling criminal Virgil Starkwell, suffered from "gags of any sort, of any kind."

His 1971 "Bananas," in which Allen played a hypochondriac en-

snared in a Latin American uprising, was marred by "an infantile type of funniness."

Even "Manhattan," his sophisticated 1979 film about a black-and-white city and the emotional colours of the people who inhabit it, got its knocks.

"What carries you through 'Manhattan' for me is more the style than anything else," he said. "I would do 'Manhattan' differently now. It's not a film I wouldn't do today, but I would do it differently."

Allen emphasised his love for weighty material and his desire to be taken seriously, despite his fans' insistence — satirised in his 1980 film "Stardust Memories" — that he make funnier movies.

"I don't mean to downgrade comedy — I think it's a wonderful thing — but I put the other (drama) on a higher plane, myself. I think my films have been good to the degree that I could make them more serious," said Allen, adding that he was drawn to tragic playwrights like August Strindberg and Eugene O'Neill and preferred Shakespeare's drama to his comedies.

He said "Hannah and Her Sisters," his 1986 critical and financial success, was "more up and optimistic than I had intended, and consequently was very popular."

But the optimism exacted a price: "It's only optimistic in the sections (where) I failed," he said.

He said his favourite film was "The Purple Rose of Cairo," in which Mia Farrow plays a woman seduced by a screen actor who steps out of a movie to woo her.

"The object of the movie was very simply to show that we all have to choose between reality and fantasy, and we're of course forced to choose reality; the other way lies madness," Allen said.

He praised both Diane Keaton and Mia Farrow, actresses with whom he has been romantically linked and whose careers he has enriched.

He called Ms. Keaton a "hilarious comedienne," and said he could not have written her title



Woody Allen



Wallace Shawn and Mia Farrow in Woody Allen's latest film Radio Days (File photo)

character in "Annie Hall" without her "because I was taking things directly from things I'd heard her say."

Ms. Farrow received particular kudos for her work as a gun moll in the 1984 movie "Broadway Danny Rose." "She was great in it... She was wonderful from the first day," Allen said.

But despite their personal attachment, Allen said he and Farrow did have their differences.

"She is surrounded by kids and pets; I live by myself across the park (Central Park)," he said. "I don't have to be there when the diapers are changed or anything really awful happens."

Entrepreneur institute tries to build new tycoons

By Seema Sirohi
The Associated Press

AHMEDABAD, India — Bharat Bhatt's job takes him across raging rivers and on lengthy hikes into remote, backward districts of India to meet villagers tucked away from the pace of modern life.

Bhatt is not a missionary or sociologist studying rural ways. He works for a programme that has become a Third World model for finding and developing private entrepreneurs in unlikely places.

The major idea behind the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India is to help would-be tycoons set up industries in places where opportunities are few.

"We are training employment-generating persons, not employment-seeking people. We train them to be on their own, to take risks," said Ashok K. Sinha, a faculty member at the institute.

The institute in western Gujarat State — which the World Bank calls the only facility of its kind in Asia — does much more than just teach business skills.

It identifies likely prospects, instructs them in the problems they will face with banks and

government bureaucracy, and then helps them get started.

The Institute in Ahmedabad has 23 faculty members who train "motivators" like Bhatt to go into villages to spot latent talent. Money comes from a fund of 20 million rupees (about \$1.5 million) donated by private and government financial institutions.

The institute also works with local entrepreneurial agencies in other Indian states, and has conducted workshops in 37 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kenya, Senegal, Mauritius, Zambia, Zaire and Ghana.

"The concept of enterprise seems to be the only answer to development. There is no way out for this country except to create a great deal of self-generating employment," says Vihari G. Patel, the institute's director.

"Other developing countries have realised this. They want ownership patterns to change from expatriate ownerships to the local people."

Patel is credited with pioneering the training for entrepreneurs in India.

Patel emphasised that development is a long-term process.

"For real impact, we have to work backward. The first attack

has to be the family where children's enterprise must be encouraged," he said.

In India, there are also special problems, he said.

"The whole bureaucracy has to be reoriented. This jungle of controls has to go. We must not just simplify procedures, but abolish them."

A man who wants to start a business in India may have to go to 43 government agencies to procure the necessary licences, loans, water, electricity and land. The convoluted bureaucratic procedures claim their toll, and some would-be entrepreneurs give up at initial stages. But the institute says its success rate is about 60 per cent.

The institute began as a small experiment in 1979 and opened with its present national scope in May 1983. It has since trained 78 Indians and 42 foreigners to be "motivators and trainers."

The institute's trainers use an "entrepreneurship development programme," or EDP, a system of testing would-be businessmen and teaching accounting, motivation and management techniques.

The institute has conducted demonstration EDPs, paid for by local banks and other financial institutions, in almost all of Indi-

a's 25 states, including some with no history of industrial activity. Gujarat State, the institute's home, has long been a centre of businessmen and traders.

The trainers often face unusual problems that they must overcome with their own ingenuity.

In Arunachal Pradesh State in the remote northeast, a trainer was faced with about 35 tribespeople he collected for an EDP, few of whom spoke any common language. They belonged to 14 different tribes.

The trainer ended up teaching accounting with leaves and beads.

B.P. Muri, one of the faculty members and a trainer himself, said: "You are like a missionary yourself. You get so involved that all the personal problems become secondary."

Mahendra Mashru's story is one of the successful cases.

An unemployed village youth in Gujarat, Mashru wanted to do something different, but didn't know what. He came across an institute trainer after reading an advertisement and was selected to receive entrepreneurship training.

He started manufacturing a mouth freshener in 1979, and by 1984 had a turnover of 1.4 million rupees (\$107,000).

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Attention: Director of Personnel
N.B. Any applications not including photocopies of certificates will not be considered.

محمد بن عبد الله

Dutch footballers blank Greeks in uninspired European qualifier

RHODES, Greece (R) — The Netherlands duly completed their expected victory over a Greek junior team when they beat them 3-0 in the final European Championship Group Five match on the island of Rhodes on Wednesday.

Although Greece fielded a junior team in protest at the European Football Union's (UEFA) decision to replay The Netherlands-Cyprus match, which the Dutch won 4-0 last week. The Dutch, already assured of a place in next year's finals in West Germany, were only able to show their full superiority in the second half.

Midfielder Ronald Koeman opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a 30-metre drive to give the Dutch the chance to relax.

They took advantage of the luxury before substitute striker Hans Gillhaus, who came on in the 65th minute for the injured Berry van Aerle, added further goals after 75 and 81 minutes.

Gillhaus slid in to finish off a right wing cross for his first goal and completed the scoring with a tremendous drive from 35 metres for the second.

The Greek Soccer Federation said it was staging the game in

Rhodes and out of Athens as a protest at the UEFA decision to allow The Netherlands to replay Cyprus in Amsterdam.

The replay ruling overturned a previous decision to award Cyprus a 3-0 win after the original match was won 8-0 by the Dutch, but interrupted for an hour when a spectator threw a firework at the Cypriot goalkeeper.

Yugoslavia beats Turkey

In Izmir, Turkey, Yugoslavia beat Turkey 3-2 in a Group Four

qualifier on Wednesday but nearly slipped when the Turks found their form on a treacherous, waterlogged pitch.

Turkey scored their first two goals of the series but the match was already a formality because England has qualified for the Group Four place in the quarter finals.

"We lost 4-1 to England, it crushed our morale. We must beat Turkey even with our young team, to be able to overcome that," Yugoslav official Ivica Osim said before the match.

Yugoslavia opened well, slogging through heavy rain and a poor Turkish defence. Radanovic picked up a goal after a muddy goalmouth melee in the fifth minute and Katanec scored a second in the 40th.

Nets, Kings restore pride

NEW YORK (AP) — At long last, the New Jersey Nets and Sacramento Kings proved they can still win in the NBA.

The Nets snapped an 11-game losing streak when they beat San Antonio 104-98 and the Kings ended an eight-game slide as they routed the Los Angeles Clippers 128-108 Tuesday night.

"It felt real great to win one," said Otis Thorpe, who had 31

points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for Sacramento. "Now we can go out on the court with our heads up high."

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Milwaukee 103, New York 98; Boston 122, Washington 102; Atlanta 93, Indiana 91; Cleveland 106, Dallas 93; Detroit 127, Chicago 123 in overtime; Los Angeles Lakers 122, Phoenix 97; and Portland 128, Seattle 109.

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Maxwell, John may quit, leaving clubs for sale

LONDON (R) — Press and publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell and rock star Elton John may quit soccer leaving three English First Division clubs up for sale and facing possible ruin, the Maxwell-owned Daily Mirror reported on Wednesday.

Maxwell was told by the Football League Management Committee on Tuesday that he cannot complete his takeover of John's Watford unless he sells his shares in Derby, where he is chairman, Oxford and Reading.

Maxwell and John were furious, the newspaper said. They had been assured by league chairman Philip Carter, in a compromise agreed at a private meeting 10 days ago, that only Oxford had to be sold to allow the Watford deal to go through.

John, chairman of Watford, said: "The Management Committee is damaging Watford. I don't know where the hell I stand. I just cannot believe what they are up to."

"The way I feel at the moment I could walk away from football for good. I don't think I want to see another football match for the rest of my life."

The Management Committee called an extraordinary general meeting of all 92 English League clubs on Jan. 19 to vote on the issue of a one person having a controlling influence in more than one club.

Maxwell said: "Let the clubs, their players, managers and staff and the millions of fans be the judges. I'm certain they will be up in arms over the actions of the 'mismanagement committee' in dishonouring an agreement."

Watford, Derby and Oxford were all languishing in the lower divisions of the Football League before they were taken over by John and Maxwell respectively.

Jordan introduces rally for 'man on the street'

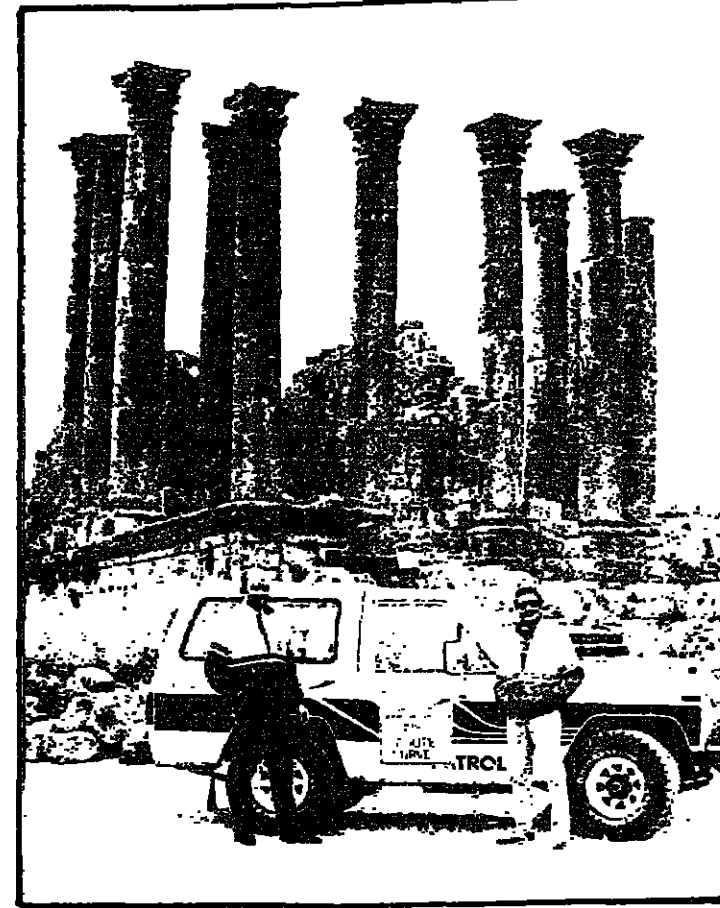
By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Rallies and motor-racing, widely held as a prestigious sport for the elites, will no more be confined to the upper class of the social strata in Jordan. The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) announced Wednesday it was introducing a new rally championship at the level of the man on the street.

"Group N" championship, as it will be dubbed, will herald a new era of rallies in Jordan since it will be open for drivers with regular cars with no modifications or changes except the changing of suspension units such as springs and shock absorbers and the addition of safety items such as roll bars and roll cages. RACJ press spokesman Samir Dajani told reporters on Wednesday.

In a press conference held at the Marriott Hotel, Mr. Dajani outlined the RACJ's motor sports events for the year 1988. He said that the RACJ had renewed its contract with cigarette-makers Rothmans to sponsor international rallies held in Jordan in the next two years. Rothmans sponsored the annual international rally in 1985 and 1986 but due to policy changes at high level they were unable to resume cooperation with the RACJ in the current year, said a press release issued by the RACJ.

The Jordan national motor sporting calendar for 1988 will include the Jerash national rally on Feb. 19, Bridgestone Autotests on March 11, Danish Dairy Co. National Rally on April 15, Pepsi-Cola Rummam Hill Climb on May 27. Rothmans Jordan Rally



The 1988 Rothmans Jordan Rally route survey team of Mr. Derek Ledger (left) and Mr. Ziad Louza in front of the 2nd century temple of Artemis in the middle of the Greco-Roman ruins of Jerash (File photo)

on June 15-17, 4x4 Jordan Desert Challenge Rally on July 15, Bridgestone Autotests on August 12, Rummam Hill Climb on September 16, Bridgestone Autotests Oct. 21 and Universal Auto Centre national rally on Nov. 11.

But before the 1988 programme goes into full gear, the final tribute to 1987 will be the Jordan Desert Challenge Rally to be held

on the final day of this year, marking a successful end to activities and events of the current year. Mr. Dajani told the press conference which was attended by RACJ General Manager Derek Ledger.

Mr. Ledger said the 1987 Jordan Rally was described in international rally circuits as a "very successful event." The president of

FISA international rallies commission, Mr. Goutard, "had very high praise for the rally and was confident that Jordan Rally would become one of the world championship rallies in the near future." "He is in fact campaigning for Jordan Rally to become part of the world championship series."

Mr. Ledger, described by many in Jordan as the father of rallies, said that for Jordan to be included in the circuit of the 15 event world championship another country has to drop out. Jordan has already achieved a better score than some of the participating countries and that "we hope that in 3-5 years we would be in the championships," he said.

Mr. Ledger said that FISA officials were very much impressed by the fact that the entire rally was run and organised by Jordanian nationals without dependence on other nationalities and because the number of women involved in the organisation and supervision of the event. These two features, he said, are "unique in the Middle East" and "bonus points for Jordan."

Commenting on the newly introduced Group N championship, RACJ officials said the permissible changes, which are also essential to ensure the safety of the occupants in the vehicle, will cost around JD 150 and therefore will be within the reach of almost any car owner.

The inclusion of this new group is mainly an attempt by officials of the Jordan Rally to include drivers who have not been able to afford the expenses of owning a Group A or B rally cars.

W. German women beat Kiwis in world soccer tournament

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Defending champion Bergisch Gladbach of West Germany defeated New Zealand's national team 1-0 Wednesday in the final round of the 1987 Taipei International Women's Invitational Soccer Tournament.

Midfielder Bettina Holzner scored for West Germany in the

33rd minute.

Taiwan's Mulan squad beat Canada 2-0, with Chou Tai-Ying scoring in the second minute and Chen Yueh-Mei in the 56th minute.

In another match Wednesday, the California-El Camino women's soccer league select team of the United States blank-

ed Australia 6-0.

Japan blanked Polynesia 5-1, and Hong Kong battled to a goalless tie with Taiwan's Lian-gyu team in consolation matches for teams that failed to advance to the final round.

Ten teams from nine countries and territories are competing in

the tournament, with Taiwan entering two teams.

They were divided into three groups in the preliminary round with the two top teams in each group advancing into the final round.

The nine-day tournament ends Sunday.

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SWEDTEL wishes to cooperate with local Jordanian consulting offices in the field of detailed design of telecommunications buildings.

Consequently, applications are invited from consulting offices in the highest class (architecture, structural design/calculations, building electricity, air handling system/heating) to participate in the prequalification for such consultancy services.

A. Project description:
The project consists of the detailed design of:
— 8-10 new exchange buildings of 400 - 600 sq.m. each.
— About 100 new buildings of 60 - 100 sq.m. each.
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The above mentioned scope of work is divided in two parts (North and South)

B. Conditions for prequalification:
Prequalification forms may be obtained from the SWEDTEL office: First Circle, Jabal Amman, starting December 16, 1987 between 1.00 - 2.00 p.m., all working-days and against a nonrefundable fee of JD 10,000.

C. The last date for obtaining forms shall be December 30, 1987. The prescribed forms shall be used and the prequalification submission shall include supporting documentation.

D. The last date for submission of prequalification forms and supporting documents is January 14, 1988 at 1.00 p.m. at SWEDTEL office.

E. Results of the evaluation process is expected on Feb. 15, 1988.

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Roh takes early lead in S. Korean elections

Opposition charges widespread rigging

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Early returns showed ruling party candidate Roh Tae-woo in the lead with about 48 per cent of the vote in South Korea's first direct, presidential election in 16 years.

Opposition groups charged the government was resorting to massive fraud to retain power.

The Central Election Commission said early returns, representing 2.5 per cent of the vote, also showed opposition candidate Kim Young-Sam with 26 per cent of the vote, followed by rival opposition candidate Kim Dae-Jung with 16 per cent. A third opposition candidate, former Premier Kim Jong-Pil, got about 9 per cent.

The National Coalition for Democracy said it was receiving reports of hundreds of cases of fraud by the government in Seoul and other cities. The opposition Alliance claimed some 3,000 cases of fraud in Seoul alone, but

the government rejected the charges and accused the opposition of trying to wreck the election.

The Election Commission reported that about 89 per cent of the country's 26 million eligible voters cast ballots. Lines of people had formed outside polling stations on a cold and clear day.

"We have to wait and see if democracy will come after the election," said Ki Tae-Yul, 74, after casting his vote.

More than 70,000 police guarded the country's 13,657 polling stations, and military units were placed on combat alert across the country in case of trouble. But voting proceeded quietly, apart from a few scat-

tered incidents involving rival supporters.

Mr. Roh of the governing Democratic Justice Party (DJP) expressed confidence about victory when he cast his ballot in Seoul, saying he would reunite the nation.

"I am really grateful that the people have done their best in opening a new chapter in the history of our democracy," Mr. Roh said as supporters chanted his name.

No front-runner emerged during the long, bitter campaign. In addition to Mr. Roh, each of the other two major candidates, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, also predicted victory for himself.

Whoever wins the largest number of votes is elected, regardless of the margin. The winner is expected to get less than 40 per cent of the vote.

Tamil rebels kill 33 in east Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger separatists battled Indian troops and attacked villagers in Sri Lanka, killing at least 33 people, police said on Wednesday.

A Polonnaruwa district police official said about 25 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas wearing military uniforms raided the eastern village of Devagoddala on Wednesday, killing 10 civilians including a family of five.

Soldiers from a nearby Sri Lankan camp heard the shots and ran to the village, briefly exchanging fire with the guerrillas who escaped into the jungle in a stolen lorry, he said.

The guerrillas set off a landmine under an Indian military jeep at Mullaitivu in the north east on Tuesday, killing five soldiers. Six guerrillas were killed in the ensuing fire-fight, police said.

Police said the Tigers shot dead five civilians believed to be supporting a rival rebel group at Kalawanchikudiy in Batticaloa district on Monday.

On the same day in nearby Thirukkovil, Tiger guerrillas exploded a landmine as an Indian military patrol was passing and killed one soldier. Three civilians were killed in a crossfire between Tigers and soldiers, police said.

Residents at Vavuniya in the north said three civilians were killed by rebels in 24 hours.

In another development, a legal document made public Tuesday said a court has found six Indian soldiers guilty of raping Tamil women in northern Sri Lanka.

Indian army major H.V. Singh testified that the soldiers would be thrown out of the army and deported to India, according to an affidavit printed in the Tamil-language newspaper Virakesari.

U.S. conducts SDI experiment in space

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department conducted a "Star Wars" experiment early this week demonstrating for the first time that lasers and other high-powered electrical devices can be operated in space without heavy shielding or insulation, officials said Tuesday.

The finding means Star Wars weaponry could be deployed in space without including thousands of pounds (kilograms) of insulating material, said Dr. James A. Tinson, the director of Innovative Science and Technology for the Pentagon's Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation.

Maj. Alan Freitag, a spokesman for the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), said the experiment was conducted Sunday night with the launch of a small rocket from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) flight facility at Wallops Island, Virginia.

The 60-foot (18-metre) rocket was launched at 8:45 p.m. Sunday (0145 GMT Monday) and carried a special test payload up to an altitude of about 400 kilometres during its 10-minute flight.

"Based on preliminary data, the test was a success," Maj. Freitag added. "Our predictions were borne out."

Bangladesh celebrates Victory Day amidst political rows

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh celebrated its Victory Day public holiday on Wednesday with a spectacular military parade, but the occasion was overshadowed by the opposition's campaign to topple President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

On the eve of the holiday, Gen. Ershad freed seven political detainees and eased restrictions on rallies imposed under the country's state of emergency.

The seven members of the fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami Party were among nearly 5,000 political leaders and activists arrested during a month-long nationwide campaign by 21 opposition parties attempting to force Gen. Ershad to resign.

The government believed that these (released) people would put in their efforts in building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh," BSS added.

Gen. Ershad, who took the salute at the parade in Dhaka, said in a Victory Day message: "Arrangements are being made to hold parliamentary elections with a view to establishing democracy on a firm foundation."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Coke adding blue to red and white

ATLANTA (AP) — Coca-Cola is wrapping itself in America's colours: red, white and blue. A tricolour can design, already test-marketed on the west coast of the United States, will turn up in stores and vending machines across the country early next year, a company spokesman said. A blue curve is replacing the familiar white curve on the red can in which Coca-Cola Co. sells the new Coke it introduced to mixed reviews in 1985. The colour scheme was designed to further differentiate the new Coke from Coca-Cola classic, which was brought back after many consumers protested the formula change. Officials of San Francisco-based Landor Associates, an image management consulting company hired to redesign the Coke can, discussed the changes in a story the Atlanta Constitution newspaper published Tuesday.

Singapore bites back at dog owners

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore, fed up with dogs snapping at joggers and upsetting rubbish bins, is biting back with fines for owners who let their mutts run free. Offenders will be fined up to 200 Singapore dollars (\$100), government official Ho Hon Fatt said on Wednesday. The orderly island state prides itself on clean parks and streets and already fines people who litter or smoke in many public places. Officials have been deluged with complaints about stray dogs biting joggers, attacking children and creating a mess by overturning rubbish bins while rummaging for food, he said.

Excerpts from Dr. Zhivago printed

MOSCOW (AP) — A magazine has printed the first excerpts of Boris Pasternak's Nobel Prize winning novel Doctor Zhivago to appear in the official Soviet press. The weekly Ogonyok published four pages of excerpts from the novel in its weekend edition, along with a short commentary by historian Dmitri Likhachev. The novel, banned in the Soviet Union since it won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1958, will be published beginning in January by the literary journal Novy Mir. But Ogonyok gave Soviets a sneak preview with excerpts recounting the experiences of the hero, Yuri Zhivago, as an army doctor on the warfront during World War I. The Czarist government fell during the war. Most of the novel is about the Bolshevik Revolution and the repression and privations of the civil war that followed. Likhachev is a noted Soviet historian who heads a special cultural fund begun in 1986. He said in his commentary that Pasternak's novel was a "spiritual autobiography" of the writer, who lived through the revolution. Pasternak was forced to renounce the Nobel Prize for Doctor Zhivago, and was expelled from Soviet Writers Union. He died in disgrace in 1960.

Organist paid for silent 'Silent Night'

BREMEN, West Germany (AP) — An organist blasting out Christmas tunes disturbed workers at Bremen's City Hall, who paid him to keep "Silent Night" silent, a city spokesman has said. The workers complained that the loud music spoiled their concentration, said the spokesman, Volker Backhaus. The musician, who plays the music to collect money from passers-by, was paid 50 marks (about \$40) to confine his music to three half-hour stints a day. "We thought he would be willing to limit his playing if we compensated for money he would have collected," Backhaus said. But with Christmas only days away, the city employees and the organist, Ernst Noethen, have reached a truce, and Noethen is again playing music all day. "Christmas is getting close so we don't really mind," said Backhaus.

Managua talks with opposition run aground

MANAGUA (R) — Talks between the ruling Sandinistas and their civilian opposition ran aground on Tuesday after the government refused to accept demands for constitutional reforms, opposition leaders said.

"The dialogue has been suspended," Socialist Party leader Luis Sanchez told a news conference, referring to the talks resulting from a regional peace accord signed by five Central American presidents in Guatemala last Aug. 7.

In a rare show of unity, leaders of 14 opposition parties, from conservatives to Communists, appeared at the news conference accusing the government of intransigence.

They have demanded various reforms to the country's year-old

constitution, saying it gives President Daniel Ortega excessive powers and draws no distinction between party and state. They say that without the reforms there can be no democracy in Nicaragua.

The opposition leaders in a joint statement urged the government to reflect on its refusal to entertain reforms saying these were indispensable to compliance with the Guatemala accord.

Their statement followed a toughly-worded speech on Sunday by President Ortega who warned opposition parties not to identify too closely with U.S.-backed contra rebels fighting to overthrow the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Mr. Ortega also said his government, if it lost an election, would leave office but would remain the true power in the land.

He said the army was in the service of the workers and the FSLN would resist any efforts to roll back workers' advances under the Sandinista-led revolution.

Among reforms proposed by the opposition is the reconstitution of the army, a demand also made by the contras. The politicians contend the very title "Sandinista army" implies the armed forces serve the FSLN rather than the nation.

Other candidates stunned by Hart's surprise comeback

EDINBURG, Texas (R) — Gary Hart was not there but nonetheless he overshadowed a debate a day after the other six Democratic presidential candidates on Tuesday night.

Mr. Hart's surprise announcement to re-enter the race despite allegations of adultery with a glamorous blonde model upstaged his Democratic rivals who debated economic issues and U.S.-Mexican relations.

Organisers of the debate at Pan American University agreed not to discuss Mr. Hart during the event. However, when pressed by eager reporters for reaction to Mr. Hart afterwards, the candidates were relatively restrained.

"It's an open field and I'm going to keep doing what I have been doing," said Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts. "We've gone through a lot over the last eight or nine months and I assume morality is still an issue."

"I was surprised, we all were," said Illinois Sen. Paul Simon, adding: "He (Hart) feels strongly on the issues. I just hope he doesn't hurt himself in the process of doing it."

Sen. Simon said no one knew what the result of Mr. Hart's

re-entry would be, but he said he would continue to push for a government that cares, and would continue to rise in the polls.

Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri said he had certain views about fundamental changes needed in the economy when Mr. Hart was not in the race and he still had those views.

"America will make a sensible choice," he said, adding that he did not think Mr. Hart's re-entry would embarrass the Democratic Party.

"It's been a strange year and it gets stranger," he said. "Two people leave and one comes back," he said, referring to Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden, who pulled out after admitting he plagiarised other politicians' speeches.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he did not want to talk about Mr. Hart's re-entry, preferring to focus on the problems of south Texas.

"I will not succumb to an analysis of his campaign," Rev. Jackson said, adding that he would "resist attempts to deflect light from the poverty in the (Rio Grande) valley."

Uganda wants OAU to mediate border dispute with Kenya

ENTEBBE, Uganda (AP) — The presidents of Uganda and Kenya have warned each other to back off in a dispute that led to two days of shooting along the East African nations' border.

Each side claims the other crossed the border and provoked the shooting, in which at least two people died.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday said he would ask the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to mediate the dispute, but warned Kenya to stop shooting in the interim.

"This must cease with immediate effect, otherwise we shall not be able to tolerate it," he said at a news conference at State House in Entebbe, 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of Kampala.

Mr. Museveni also accused Kenya of harbouring rebels opposed to his nearly two-year-old government.

"If the Kenyan government continues with this trend, we shall be forced to defend ourselves," he said.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said Tuesday that disagreements among Ugandans caused the fighting.

"The Ugandans who are fighting among themselves are now trying to bring their conflicts into Kenya," he said. "We wish them peace, but we cannot allow anyone to provoke us, to disrupt our peace. Steps will be taken to ensure that Kenyans are properly protected."

U.S. court nominee ends testimony without problems

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Supreme Court nominee Anthony Kennedy has finished testimony at his Senate hearings without any major problems and appears to have a clear path to confirmation, according to several leading senators.

"I don't believe you are in any trouble," Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd told Judge Kennedy as the nominee completed two days of questioning by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

"I'm inclined to vote for you, barring any unforeseen happenings," the West Virginian said.

Judge Kennedy was Mr. Reagan's third choice to replace Justice Lewis Powell, who resigned in June.

The previous choices were Robert Bork, a federal judge rejected by the Senate in part because he said he did not think there was a constitutional protection for privacy, and Douglas Ginsburg, an appeals court judge who withdrew his name after admitting he had smoked marijuana.

South Carolina Republican

Strom Thurmond told Judge Kennedy: "You're a good man and you ought to be confirmed."

Ohio Democrat Howard Metzenbaum, who expressed concern about some of Judge Kennedy's decisions on equal rights for women and bargaining rights for union members, said he thought Judge Kennedy would be confirmed.

"Everyone thinks you did well and I share that view," Chairman Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, told Judge Kennedy. "You have every reason, in my view, to have a happy holiday."

The committee has two more days of hearings scheduled to hear witnesses for or against Judge Kennedy, but will not vote on the nomination until at least late January when Congress returns from its holiday recess. A vote by the full Senate will come soon after the committee acts.

Judge Kennedy, a 51-year-old conservative federal judge from California, told the committee the prospect of joining the nation's highest court gave him some apprehension.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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IMPS AT WORK

Neither vulnerable South deals
NORTH
♠ 7 6
♥ Q 10 8
♦ A 10 7 3
♣ 9 8 7 5

WEST EAST
♠ Q J 8 6 4 2 ♠ Void
♥ 7 4 3 ♥ 8 7 2
♦ Q 8 2 ♦ K J 9 6 5
♣ A 6 ♣ J 10 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 9 3
♥ A K J 9 6
♦ 4
♣ K Q

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠

At our father's knee in the Old Country, we learned the adage: "Lead up to your high cards." Apparently South's sire was born in the New World and forgot to impart this wisdom to his offspring. Note North's waiting bid of three spades. Since South's jump shift was game-forcing, North did not have to guess what his partner's distribution was. The temporizing action allowed South the room to describe his holding.

West shrewdly led a trump, and declarer saw no problem in the hand. He won with the nine and, in an attempt to ruff at least one spade, he laid down the king. His complacency was shattered when East ruffed this trick and exited with a trump, and declarer found he could count no more than nine tricks—one fewer than he had contracted for.

There is no magic to this hand. All declarer had to do to land his contract was to follow one of the oldest rubrics in bridge.

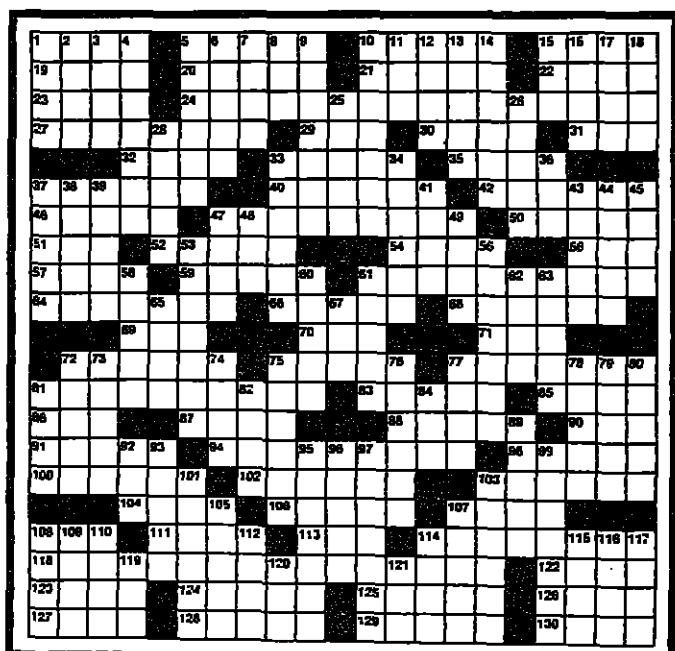
Let's see what would happen had declarer won the first trick in dummy and led a spade toward his ace-king. If East trumps this trick, he will be ruffing air—declarer will follow with a low spade and preserve his winners. If East does not ruff, declarer wins with the ace, crosses to the ace of diamonds and leads another spade from the table. Again it does not help East to ruff, and when he discards declarer's king wins. Now he ruffs a spade with the board's high trump, draws trumps and then forces out the ace of clubs. In all, declarer scores five trump tricks, two spades and a ruff, the ace of diamonds and a club.

Those players in the Old Country must have been pretty good.

Carter's
"If they could just stay little till their Carter's wear out."
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Tel: 818995.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Stenson



Last Week's Cryptograms

- The exotic cruise to exciting islands did scintillating things to our senses.
- Classic flora and fauna are found harum-scarum in field around farmhouse.
- Perky little angel in pagant has sparkly neon halo.
- A three-day weekend is fifty percent better than a two-day weekend, but a four-day weekend is only thirty-three percent better than a three-day weekend.

CRYPTOGRAMS

- SEOK LUIS SUDEN LOLS SUDUP IMP
SENDUP OMYAD XS OMTILLS LILLS
IKENYIDS IELLUP TAX. —By Richard C. Percival
- UGHISH WHEAT UGHISH LSPALS NG WHGY
LOUQUE UGH PGY OAGQW ATONSEL
—By Ed Haddiscoe
- GUSH LIOE GOOFY UV FLIO, VLPON
SWELAP FLTP GUY ASFSWO. —By Lois H. Jones
- TGNX JHILL GYALBA AGYLI ABEI NX
VND JLAANDKX HLLB FB JHGDGA
ABFTNGH. —By Earl Ireland

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

